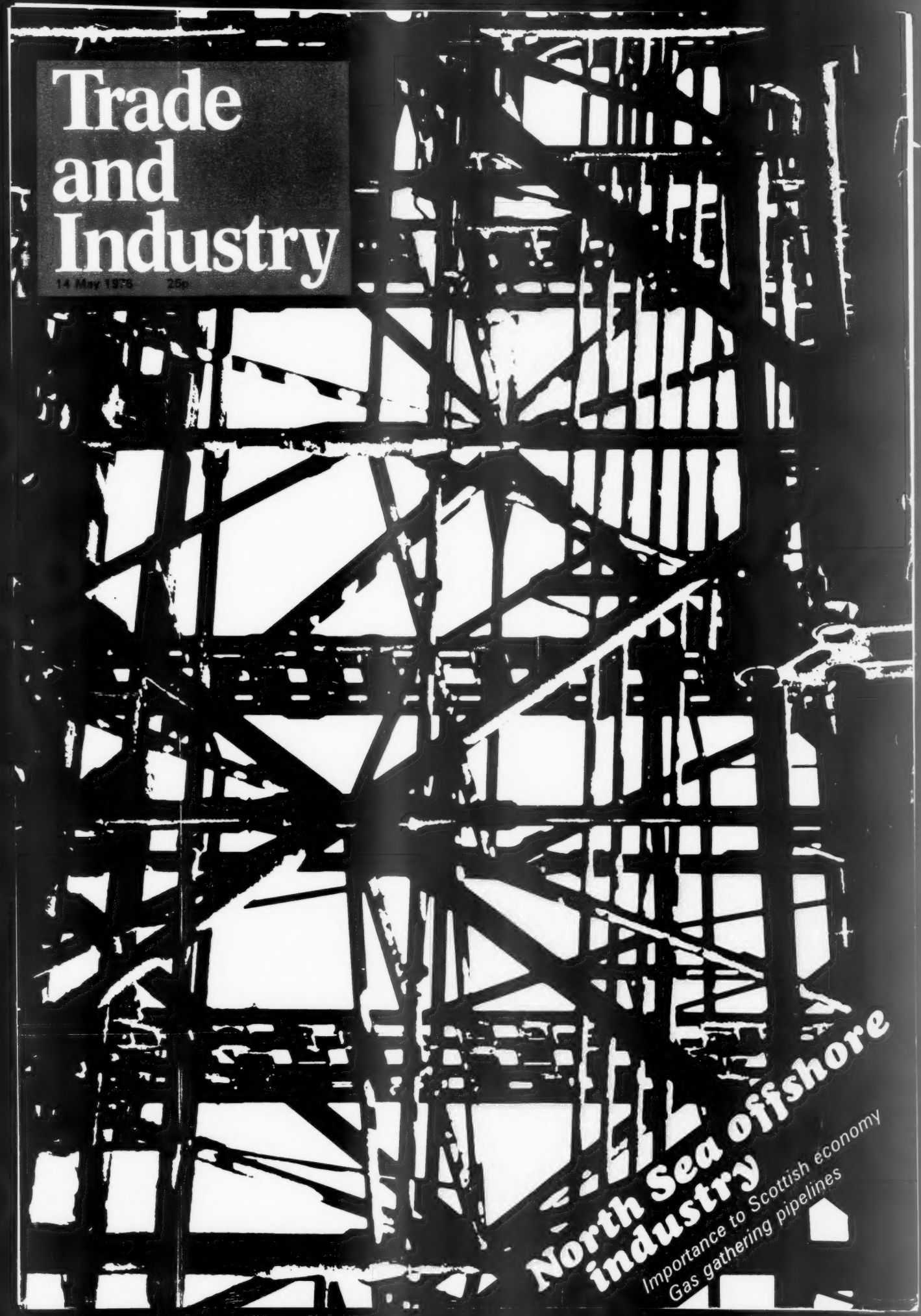
Trade and Industry
14 May 1976 25p



North Sea offshore industry

Importance to Scottish economy
Gas gathering pipelines

contact points

Firms wishing to put inquiries to the Departments of Industry and Trade will find contact with the nearest Regional Office most convenient. Telephone numbers are:

Northern Region, Newcastle upon Tyne	**0632 27575**
North West Region, Manchester	**061-236 2171**
Yorkshire and Humberside Region, Leeds	**0532 443171**
East Midlands Region, Nottingham	**0602 46121**
West Midlands Region, Birmingham	**021-632 4111**
South West Region, Bristol	**0272 291071**
Eastern Region, London	**01-603 2070**
London and South Eastern Region	**01-603 2060**

Departmental Buildings in London

1 Victoria Street, SW1H 0ET **Monsanto House, Victoria Street, SW1H 0NQ**	**01-215 7877**
Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1P 4LN **Millbank Tower, Millbank, SW1P 4QU** **Thames House South, Millbank, SW1P 4QJ**	**01-211 3000**
Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, SW1P 2AG	**01-212 7676**
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, EC4M 7HU **Hillgate House, 26 Old Bailey, EC4M 7HU**	**01-248 5757**
Sunley House, 90-93 High Holborn, WC1V 6LP	**01-405 6911**
Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, SE1 8UA	**01-275 3000**
Cleland House, Page Street, SW1P 4LW	**01-222 8020**

In Scotland

Contact The Scottish Economic Planning Department, Industrial Development Division, 314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF	**041-248 2855**

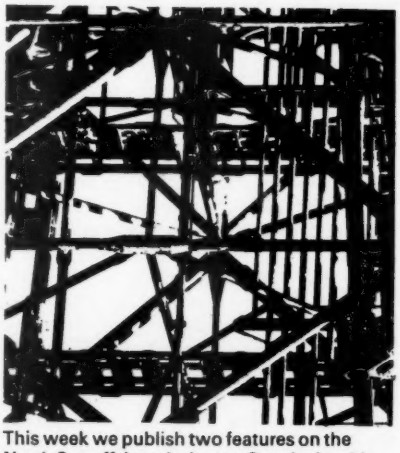
In Wales

Contact The Welsh Office, Industry Department, Block 2, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL	**0222 62131**

Trade and Industry

14 May 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



This week we publish two features on the North Sea offshore Industry. One deals with the importance of oil-related activity in the Scottish economy, the other with the feasibility of establishing a gas-gathering pipeline system in the northern North Sea. Our cover is a photographic impression of the massive steel structure of Highland One production platform jacket built for the BP Forties field by Highland Fabricators at Nigg Bay. An even bigger platform jacket was floated out this week – Sheel/Esso 'A' for the Brent Field, built by Redpath Dorman Long at Methil, Firth of Forth.

Trade and Industry

Incorporating the Board of Trade Journal

Volume 23. No. 7.

Pages 405 to 460. 14 May 1976.

Price 25p. Net subscription post inclusive, £18.72

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London SW1H 0ET.

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Advertisements: T. G. Scott & Son Ltd., 1 Clement's Inn, London WC2A 2ED. Tel: 01-242 6264 or 01-405 4743.

Subscriptions: HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. 01-928 6977 ext. 472

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Home News

Minister calls for catering code to improve standards

Low standards of hygiene and catering in many of our catering establishments and the British willingness to put up with them have inspired criticism both humorous and serious, said John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, on 7 May.

Speaking at the annual luncheon of the Hotel Catering and Institutional Management Association in London, Mr. Fraser continued:

'I know that the association is considering the preparation of a code or codes for the industry. In principle I would welcome this and I am sure that my colleagues in other departments would agree. Standards in many places are high but I am sure we would all agree that there is always room for improvements and for maintaining standards – even in the best establishments.

'I should be interested to know what kind of code of practice you envisage for the catering industry. Some aspects of service may be too intangible to lend themselves to inclusion in any formal code: for example, the friendly or unfriendly atmosphere which one can often sense on first arriving at a hotel, or the manner in which the problems of occasionally overcrowded restaurants are dealt with. I suppose the most important aspect of such a code, and certainly one which my department would strongly support, would be to ensure that the customer receives value for money and is satisfied that he is not being overcharged. For example, I think it is important that the customer should be informed what the cost will be before he or she books a hotel room; and that in hotels and restaurants prices should include VAT, service and any other charges or alternatively state clearly what those additional charges will be.

'As you probably know, a number of industries have produced, or are preparing, codes of practice, usually in co-operation with the Director General of Fair Trading. Naturally the contents of the codes vary according to the particular circumstances of each industry but most of them have some features in common. Nearly always there is some kind of procedure for dealing with complaints and for training staff how to do so.'

UK and Norway sign Frigg gasfield agreement

The United Kingdom and Norway signed an agreement in London this week on the joint development of the North Sea Frigg gasfield which lies across the continental shelf boundary line between the two countries. It is the first international unitisation agreement covering an offshore gasfield.

The agreement was initialled in Oslo on 11 December 1975. It provides the legal and administrative framework for joint operations in the gasfield and covers such aspects as jurisdiction, inspection, taxation, production and transmission. It will allow the delivery of both British and Norwegian gas from the field to St. Fergus in Scotland in 1977.

British Gas reached agreement with the producers in July 1974 to buy the gas from the entire Frigg gasfield. The gas will be piped about 230 miles, through two pipelines, to a terminal being built at St. Fergus, Aberdeenshire.

With total reserves from the Frigg gasfield estimated at 7.5 trillion cubic ft, the UK share of the field is still being quantified.

A year or more before the start of production on the Norwegian side Frigg gas will be first produced from the UK continental shelf in 1977. All the gas will be shared by the UK and Norway on an agreed equity interest basis.

Signing the agreement: from the left, Herr Muller, Secretary General at the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Industry, John Tomlinson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy.

Industry Act assistance: interest rates increased

The maximum rate of Interest Relief Grant and interest rates for loans under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 are increased with effect from 10 May.

The rate of Interest Relief Grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest-free period on a Department of Industry loan – but where firms obtain their finance from other sources – is being increased from 11½ per cent to 12 per cent for each interest free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (Category A) is increased from 8½ per cent to 9 per cent. The 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (Category B) is increased from 11½ per cent to 12 per cent.

New Gateshead factory

The Department of Industry has announced that the English Industrial Estates Corporation is building a new factory of 6,570m² (70,725 sq. ft) for Eimco (GB) Ltd., opposite its present premises on Earlsway on the Team Valley Industrial Estate, Gateshead.

The new factory will more than double the size of the premises occupied, and when fully operational more than 200 extra jobs are expected to accrue. Eimco manufactures equipment for use in mining and rock tunnelling operations around the world.

Voluntary wage restraint great prize to the nation – Eric Varley

The benefits to the nation of the agreement on a voluntary wages policy were spelled out by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, at a union conference in Scarborough on 7 May:

it will help the housewife feed and clothe her family;

it will make our exports more competitive and so increase the nation's wealth;

it is the greatest single weapon we have to fight unemployment;

it is a shield against the cost increases which are the greatest threat to our social services;

it can bring new stability and hope to the nation;

coupled with our industrial strategy it can assist in expanding our industrial base and increasing social and individual living standards.

He emphasised at the Annual Conference of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union that an agreement on voluntary wage restraint is the greatest prize that the nation and its workers can win.

'It is impossible to exaggerate the gain to every family and every individual in this country of stemming and turning back the rate of inflation. That is why the readiness of the trade unions voluntarily to participate in the next phase of pay restraint is a great act of patriotism which should be applauded by the nation as a whole.

'Coming towards the end of a period of economic turmoil, with world recession, mounting unemployment and an unprecedented rate of inflation, I think the new joint approach envisaged at Chequers was widely welcomed as at last a sensible attempt to come to terms seriously with the root causes of our poor industrial performance.

'Already we have won some considerable successes!

'This is partly because pay restraint is part of a broader policy which is widely accepted as fair, with measures to encourage employment and protect the least well-off through higher pensions.

'But it also, in my view, reflects a mood of greater concern in Britain about our economic future. Days lost through strikes, for example, fell considerably last year and were the lowest for seven years. Through our own efforts as a nation we managed to halve our balance of payments current deficit and, on all the evidence, we almost certainly have increased our share of world trade'.

Major expansion at Cleator Moor

The English Industrial Estates Corporation is building a further extension to the premises occupied by Alan Pidgeon Ltd. on the Cleator Moor Industrial Estate, Cumbria.

Alan Pidgeon, who are engaged in the manufacture of sheets, pillowcases, continental quilts, covers and accessories, have been highly successful since they began operations in a 1,394m² factory at Cleator Moor at the beginning of 1970. The company has already had two major extensions in 1972 and 1974 doubling the factory size. This latest extension is of 2,788m² and when completed the total area of the premises will have been quadrupled in six years.

The contract for building this extension has been awarded to Thos. Milburn Ltd., of Whitehaven; architects for the project are Roy, Nicholson and Becker of Whitehaven and the quantity surveyor is John G. Hellawell and Partner of Newcastle. Work has just been started and the building should be completed early in 1977.

A further 140 jobs will eventually be created by this expansion.

New chairman of Shorts

Sir George Leitch is to become chairman of Short Brothers and Harland Ltd. on 1 July. The appointment has been announced by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry.

Sir George is former chief executive of the Procurement Executive at the Ministry of Defence. Sir Edouard Grundy is to retire on 30 June after serving as chairman since February 1968.

More money for training and job creation

Details of the £15 million measures to expand the training and job creation programmes were given last week by Albert Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, in a letter to the TUC. They are as follows:

training for a further 2,000 people under the Training Opportunities Programme (TOPS) costing £5 million: this is in addition to the extra expansion already planned for 1976;

employment under the Job Creation Programme for a further 5,000 unemployed people, mostly young people, costing £5 million: the programme is now expected to employ 34,000 people by September 1976;

speeding up skillcentre accommodation plans to provide more training places next year, costing £4¼ million;

new office equipment to enable employment offices to improve the arrangements for the handling of vacancies, costing £¾ million.

The Government has already allocated more than £400 million to help alleviate unemployment. This sum is expected to provide 250,000 jobs and training places of which 116,000 have already been realised.

Higher exemption limits for office development permits

The exemption limit for office development permits will be raised from 10,000 sq ft to 15,000 sq ft from 1 June, under an Order* laid before Parliament on 6 May.

The raising of the exemption limit was announced by John Silkin, Minister for Planning and Local Government, when the office location review was published on 12 April.

Since December 1970 the exemption limit for permits has been 10,000 sq ft. The original exemption limit in 1965 was 3,000

* The Control of Office Development (Exemption Limit) Order 1976 SI No 652. Available HM Stationary Office, price 8p.

Technical, Chemical, Electronics, Engineering, Medical, Legal and Commercial Translations

- FRENCH
- GERMAN
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Head Office: 27 MONTAYNE ROAD, WALTHAM CROSS, HERTS Tel: Waltham Cross (0992) 39822 and 25541

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
INSTRUCTION MANUALS
LEGAL DOCUMENTS
CORRESPONDENCE · PATENTS, ETC.

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sq ft. In 1967 it was raised to 10,000 sq ft, with the exception of the metropolitan region; in 1969 this was extended to the metropolitan region except for Greater London; and to Greater London in 1970.

Office development permits were introduced in 1964 as a control in London, the rest of the metropolitan region and the Birmingham conurbation. In July 1966 the control was extended to the entire South East, Midlands and East Anglia regions. In 1969 East Anglia and the rural Midlands were excluded; and since 1970 control has remained in force only in the South East. A standstill on the issue of permits was in force from the end of 1973 until July 1974, when the Secretary of State for the Environment stated that the control would be applied strictly and that there would be severe restrictions on speculative building even for replacement.

Scottish Industrial Development Division

The Industrial Development Division of the Scottish Economic Planning Department is moving on 17 May from 314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF to Alhambra House, 45 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6AT. The telephone number (which is unchanged) is 041-248 2855 (telex 77583 Answer Back 77583-SEPDGW-G).

Export inquiries should be addressed to British Overseas Trade Board, Export Office for Scotland at the new address.

Clinton Davis on 'great importance' of air freight

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, said on 10 May that during the last 10 years the value of UK exports carried by air increased eight times, while its percentage of the nation's total exports doubled.

Addressing the International Air Cargo Forum in London, Mr. Clinton Davis said:

'For all its lack of public attention air freight has, in a comparatively short time, carved out a place for itself of great importance. There is, of course, no reason why anyone should send their cargo by air unless the carriers can offer distinct advantages.

'But this they can. Where high value, relatively low volume or urgency are involved, air freight is increasingly taking over. The point about value is clearly borne out in the case of the UK's own external trade, where only about 1 per cent by volume goes by air, but that 1 per cent represents, in terms of value, something like one-sixth.

'To get the air cargo industry into true perspective one needs to look at the picture over the whole of the last decade. During this period the value of UK exports by air cargo increased nearly eight times (from £425 million to £3,382 million in 1975) while its percentage of our total exports almost doubled (from 8.7 to 17 per cent).

'Last year, despite the recession in airline traffic, exports by air from Britain grew by more than 20 per cent. For imports the slowing down was more marked although the proportion of imports by air compared to total imports still rose slightly.

'It is obvious that air transport has many advantages especially where goods of high value and low volume are concerned.

'The fall-back last year may have been due to increased freight charges because of rapidly rising costs. This increased the differential and made air cargo seem too dear in comparison. But past experience shows that this situation soon rights itself again as other transport costs go up and the previous differential is restored.'

Mr. Clinton Davis also referred to the carriage by air of animals. He said: 'I do recognise the problems of the carriage of animals and birds. There is unquestionably much public concern about the conditions under which animals are sometimes conveyed.

'All MPs – including ministers – are not allowed to remain unaware of this. I sincerely hope therefore that all these important issues will be given proper attention.'

Small firms information service display

Lord Melchett (centre), Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Industry, who has special responsibility for small firms, with John Cammell (right), assistant secretary, and Peter Goold, of the Department's Small Firms Division. The picture was taken in the reception area at the Department's headquarters in Victoria Street, London, against the background of a new display unit drawing attention to the facilities offered to businessmen by the Small Firms Information Service. The display will be taken to regional centres and to seminars.

Official appointments

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has made the following appointment:

British Aerospace Organising Committee. Bernard Friend, lately chairman and managing director of Esso Chemicals UK Ltd., to be part-time member of the committee with effect from 1 May. He will assume full-time duty from 1 July with particular responsibility for finance.

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has made the following appointments:

Post Office Users' National Council. Lord Peddie is reappointed chairman until 4 April 1979.

Transport Users' Consultative Committee for East Anglia. Mr. L. A. Carey, to be chairman until 28 February 1977.

Wales Gas Consumers' Council. Mrs. I. Price-Jones and Councillors V. P. Jones, D. G. Price, D. L. Rosser and D. J. Turner to be members until 30 September 1978.

South Eastern Gas Consumers' Council. Mrs. I. Higgins to be deputy chairman until 30 June 1978. Councillors Mrs. J. F. Berry and H. G. Morgan to be members until 30 June 1977.

Eastern Gas Consumers' Council. Councillors Mrs. J. R. Perkins, R. Spencer and A. T. West to be members until 30 November 1978.

West Midlands Gas Consumers' Council. Councillor R. L. Tomlin to be a member until 31 October 1978.

Scottish Gas Consumers' Council. Councillors Mrs. J. B. Burns and J. McGinley to be members until 31 May 1977.

Trawler 'Wyre Victory': formal investigation

The Department of Trade has ordered a public Formal Investigation to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the stranding of the trawler *Wyre Victory* which occurred on 14 January 1976. A further announcement will give the date, time and place of the hearing.

The *Wyre Victory*, a Fleetwood trawler, stranded on some offshore rocks near the Oigh-sgeir Light (between Rhum and Barra), on her way to the Icelandic fishing grounds. The crew of 18 was rescued by a sister trawler the *Wyre Conqueror*, but the *Wyre Victory* sank about four hours after grounding on the rocks.

Air travel organisers' licences

The Civil Aviation Authority has renewed the following air travel organisers' licences:

Licence no.	Licensee	Validity
057A	Overseas Families and Friends Association	7 May 1976-31 March 1977
703B	Hannibal Tours Ltd. t/a Orpheus Holidays	7 May 1976-31 March 1977

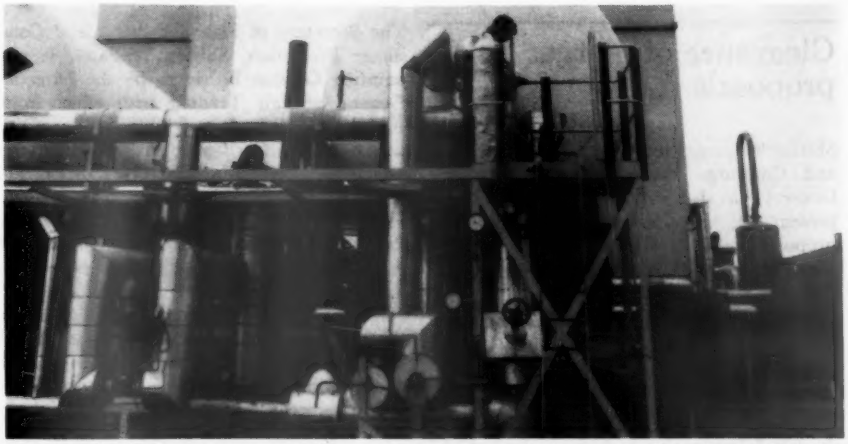
Dungeness pressure vessels completed

Simonbuild Ltd. (a Simon Engineering company) has now completed the concrete prestressing programme at Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station, one of the most ambitious ever undertaken.

Since prestressing began in the autumn last year, nearly 2,000 tendons have been subjected to almost 1,500,000 tonnes of prestressing force. On each of the tendons this is equivalent to 11 Concordes at maximum thrust.

The pressure vessels are 100 ft high and 90 ft in diameter, and an average of 40,800 tonnes of prestressing force through 55 tendons was accomplished each week.

New automatic nitrogen plant on stream in Scotland



One of the liquid nitrogen storage tanks in a new nitrogen producing plant built by Cryoplants Ltd., Edmonton, North London. The plant has been commissioned at Grangemouth, Scotland, by BOC. It will supply gaseous nitrogen through a mile-long pipeline to BP Chemicals International Ltd., where it will be used for purging, inerting and blanketing. A pipeline will supply nitrogen to BXL Ltd.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
21 April 1976		
1,037,406	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements relating to automatic regulators for hydrostatic transmission of automobile vehicles
1,051,861	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in the method of regulating the input torque of a rotating barrel and plunger type hydraulic transmission
1,249,768	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to vehicle seats
1,301,644	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in pulse control systems, notably for change-speed mechanisms
1,054,596	Teldec Telefunken-Decca Schallplatten GmbH	A cutting device for hill-and-dale stylus recording of sound
1,116,025	Telefunken Patent-verwertungsgesellschaft mbH	A system for the inductive transmission of messages to vehicles equipped with receivers
1,292,527	Societe Chimique des Charbonnages	Improved method of polymerisation of aromatic vinyl hydro-carbons
1,300,148	Ateliers Des Charmilles S.A	Improvements in or relating to rotary hydraulic machines such as turbines, pumps, or turbine pumps
1,357,519	Herbert Edward Boulter	Improvements relating to combustion boilers
1,415,508	British Chrome and Chemicals Ltd.	Diarene chromium compounds
1,418,960	Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique	A method of measuring

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement. E. Armitage, Comptroller

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Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection and Paymaster General, has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Tarmac Ltd. and Holland, Hannen and Cubitts Ltd.

Control Data Ltd. and Dataset Ltd.

Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958

Dealers in securities

The following changes have taken place in the lists of dealers in securities under Sections 3 and 16 of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act and published in Parts 1 and 4 of the 1975 edition of Particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts.

Licensed dealers

Additions:

Raymond John McCarthy trading as R. J. McCarthy, Culverhayes, Bicknoller, Somerset.

David Bertram Bowen trading as D. B. Bowen, Bramley, Legh Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8LS.

Chart Analysis Ltd., 194/200 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4PE.

Grimshawe Securities Ltd., Yorkshire House, Greek Street, Leeds LS1 5TW.

Change of name:

Jascot Securities Ltd. to Arbuthnot Securities Ltd., 21 Leven Street, Edinburgh EH3 9LH.

New Director General of Fair Trading

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Shirley Williams, is appointing Gordon Borrie to be the Director General of Fair Trading with effect from 14 June. He will take up the full duties of the post on 12 July when he leaves his present appointment at the University of Birmingham.

Mr. Gordon Borrie is 45 and has been Professor of English Law, University of Birmingham, since 1969, and Dean of the Faculty of Law since 1974.

Among the appointments he holds are those of part-time member of the Equal Opportunities Commission (since 1975) and of the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (since 1973). He will be giving up these appointments when he becomes Director General of Fair Trading. He served as a member of the Council of the Consumers' Association 1972-75. He is the author, or part author, of a number of publications dealing with the law and with consumer matters including 'Commercial Law' (Butterworths, 4th ed., 1975), 'The Consumer, Society and the Law' (with Prof. A. L. Diamond, member of the Law Commission) (3rd ed., 1973). He is married, with no children, and lives in Worcestershire.

Mr. Borrie succeeds John Methven, the first Director General of Fair Trading (appointed 1 November 1973), who is to take up an appointment as Director General of the CBI.

The appointment of Director General of Fair Trading is made under Section 1 of the Fair Trading Act 1973. The principal duties of the Director General are:

1 To keep commercial activities in the United Kingdom under review, in order to identify trading practices unfair to consumers and monopoly situations, and to make recommendations, or give information and assistance, to the Secretary of State accordingly.

2 To refer consumer trade practices to the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee with a view to ascertaining whether the practices adversely affect the economic interests of consumers, and to give the Committee any information and assistance they may require in this regard.

3 To consider evidence of persistent conduct by businessmen which is unfair to consumers and detrimental to their interests, with a view to seeking appropriate undertakings from them or if necessary bringing them before a court.

4 Where he has grounds for believing that a monopoly situation exists which he could refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (see below), to require certain information to be furnished to him.

5 To make monopoly references to the Commission (except of certain nationalised industries), subject to the veto of the Secretary of State.

6 To inform himself about merger situations that may qualify for investigation, and to recommend action to the Secretary of State.

7 If requested by the appropriate Minister to do so, to consult the parties, following a report of the Commission with a view to obtaining undertakings from them, and to keep under review the carrying out of such undertakings.

8 To maintain the register of restrictive trading agreements and refer such agreements to the Restrictive Practices Court for investigation.

9 To publish information and advice for consumers.

10 To encourage trade associations to prepare and to disseminate codes of practice for guidance in safeguarding and promoting consumers' interests.

11 To carry out the following duties under the Consumer Credit Act 1974:
to administer the licensing system;
to superintend the working and enforcement of the Act and regulations made under it and, where necessary, to enforce it himself;
to keep under review the working and enforcement of the Act and orders and regulations made under it.

12 To report on his own activities, and those of the CPAC and of the Commission, during each year. (The Director General's second Annual Report for the period January 1975 to December 1975 was published by HMSO on 8 April).

Authorised unit trust schemes

The following amendments have taken place in the list of unit trust schemes authorised under Section 17 of the Act and published in Part 5 of the 1975 Particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts.

Group and/or name and address of management company	Name of scheme	Name and address of trustee
ADDITIONS		
Antony Gibbs Unit Trust Managers Ltd., 23 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7NL	Antony Gibbs Far East and General Trust	Lloyds Bank Ltd., 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS
Hambros Unit Trust Managers Ltd., 51 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA	The Hambro Overseas Earnings Fund	The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd., PO Box 51, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB
Transatlantic and General Securities Co. Ltd., 91-99 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0PY	The Wickmoor Dividend Fund	Barclays Bank Trust Co. Ltd., 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH

New Engineer Surveyor-in-Chief

Dr. James Cowley has been appointed Engineer Surveyor-in-Chief of the Department of Trade in succession to Gordon Victory, who has retired. Dr. Cowley was formerly Deputy Engineer Surveyor-in-Chief. He is chairman of the ERB/CEI Technical Engineer Board.

Carriage of Post Office Surface Mail to U.S.A. and Canada.

The Post Office is inviting tenders for the carriage of surface mail in containers from the United Kingdom to U.S.A. and Canada for periods of approximately one year commencing on or about 1st August 1976 and 1st September 1976 respectively. Forms of tender, which must be returned by 14th June 1976, can be obtained from:

Postal Headquarters, Overseas Post Division,
Room G13, St Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON EC1A 1HQ
Telephone: 01-432 5999

The Post Office

ENCIRCLE TI 21 ON PAGE 455 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Monopolies Commission to investigate wholesaling of national newspapers and periodicals

John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading referred on 5 May certain aspects of the wholesaling of national newspapers and periodicals in England and Wales to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation. In a second reference, the Director General has asked the commission to examine the same issues in Scotland.

Both references ask the commission to look into two practices:

1 refusal by wholesalers to supply particular retailers; and
2 the participation of wholesalers in retailing.

The Director General has asked the commission to report within 18 months. Any person or organisation wishing to offer evidence in relation to the reference should write to: The Secretary, The Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT.

Over the years, newspaper and periodical wholesaling has been the subject of many representations to both the Office of Fair Trading and other Government departments, from retailers and would-be retailers, alleging uncompetitive practices. The Director General considers that wholesalers' refusal to supply particular newsagents and the participation of wholesalers in retailing merit investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

The distribution of newspapers and periodicals is a matter falling within the terms of reference of the Royal Commission on the Press, and the Director General has been anxious to avoid any duplication between the work of the Royal Commission and the MMC, and also to limit the burden which the two inquiries will place on individual wholesalers. The Director General has consulted the Royal Commission about the terms of the references, which are being made with the Royal Commission's agreement. The Royal Commission do not expect to have to make further investigations into these particular practices.

Although the MMC investigation will deal with the question of refusal to supply particular newsagents, it will not deal with the situation where a wholesaler refuses altogether to handle particular newspapers and periodicals on the grounds of their character, content or publisher. The wholesaler's decisions in such cases are influenced by for example the law on obscenity and libel, and involve issues which would be considered – so far as necessary – under the terms of reference of the Royal Commission. Supply by wholesalers supplying only their own publications will also not be investigated. The MMC will be concerned only with refusal to supply all or particular newspapers or periodicals to a particular retailer or retailers in a particular area, and with the wholesalers' participation in retailing.

Previous investigations

The question of newsagents in England and Wales experiencing difficulties in obtaining supplies of national daily papers was examined in 1961 when the Restrictive Practices Court considered an agreement between the Newspaper Publishers' Association (NPA) and the National Federation of Retail Newsagents (NFRN) known as the Re-entrants and New Applications (or RENA) Agreement. This came into being largely to control re-entry into the trade in the immediate post-war period by newsagents who had been displaced by the war but subsequently applied to persons wishing to enter the trade for the first time or existing newsagents wishing to open new outlets.

Under the agreement, the publishers agreed that they would only supply national daily newspapers to wholesalers on condition that the latter did not supply retail outlets which had not been selling newspapers in June 1944 unless the retailers concerned held permits issued by the New Application Committee of the NPA. The agreement was found to be against the public interest by the Restrictive Practices Court in July 1961. Since then, the question whether or not to supply particular retailers has primarily been a matter for the wholesaler to decide.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission have already inquired into the general effect on the public interest of the practice of refusal to supply. Their report, which was published in 1970, concluded that no mischief had been uncovered which would justify the commission recommending further substantial legislation as a remedy but, where refusals by suppliers appeared to fall within the scope of the monopolies legislation, it would be open to the appropriate authorities to consider making a reference to the commission. The commission also reported that the largest number of complaints relating to any one line of goods came from retailers who had been refused supplies of newspapers by wholesalers.

Separate reference for Scotland

Newspaper and periodical wholesale distribution arrangements in Scotland have been found to differ from those in England and Wales. Some newspapers circulate mainly in Scotland and not to the same extent in England and Wales. This prevents the identification of a single description of goods for the whole of Great Britain for the purposes of Section 10(7) of the Fair Trading Act 1973. It has been decided therefore that the situation in Scotland can be best covered by a separate reference. Both of the references are designed to deal with the 'complex monopoly situations' (see General background) which are believed to exist in both countries.

Definitions

For the purpose of the MMC's investigations 'national newspapers' means both daily and Sunday newspapers circulating generally in England and Wales, and, in the case of the Scottish reference, means daily and Sunday newspapers which circulate generally in Scotland, including newspapers which also circulate generally outside Scotland. 'Periodicals' means magazines and periodical publications other than newspapers and 'part works' (such as encyclopaedias, illustrated histories and do-it-yourself manuals issued in regular instalments and designed eventually to form a single work). 'Supply by wholesale' is defined so as to exclude retail sales, and sales made by publishers who wholesale only their own publications.

The market

The major companies engaged in wholesaling in England and Wales are W. H. Smith and Son (Holdings) Ltd., John Menzies (Holdings) Ltd. and the Surridge Dawson Group. In Scotland, Menzies is the largest wholesaler, but many newspaper publishers arrange the wholesale distribution of their own publications. The references will not necessarily deal only with these firms since it is possible that other smaller wholesalers may be found to be parties to a 'complex monopoly situation'. Estimated consumer expenditure on daily and weekly newspapers and on weekly, monthly and quarterly periodicals is thought to exceed £500 million a year in the United Kingdom as a whole and these publications are sold through over 30,000 outlets. The average daily circulation of national morning newspapers is over 14 million, of which just over half are thought to be delivered by retailers.

Other references

Previous monopoly references on which reports have not yet been laid before Parliament or published are:

Indirect electrostatic reprographic equipment (referred August 1973)
Restrictions on advertising by accountants, veterinary surgeons and stockbrokers (referred August 1973)
Regulation of charges by scale fees by architects and surveyors (referred September 1973)
Building bricks (referred October 1973)
Wheat flour and bread (referred October 1973)
Frozen foods (referred June 1974)
'Diazo' copying materials (referred July 1974)
Insulated electric wire and cables (referred July 1974)
Restrictions on advertising by solicitors and barristers in England and Wales, and by solicitors and advocates in Scotland (referred July 1974)
The two-counsel rule at the bars of England and Wales, and of Scotland (referred July 1974)
Cat and dog foods (referred July 1975)
Ceramic sanitaryware (referred December 1975)
Certain aspects of the wholesale supply of petrol (referred February 1976).

Mud pump liners

An engineer makes the final check on the tolerance of a new type of mud pump liners for use in offshore drilling. Mud pumps are used in oil-well drilling to circulate an abrasive mixture of lubricant and waste soil and are subject to high pressures and heavy wear. The new liners are produced by Tube Investments Ltd., have a hard inner surface of chrome-molybdenum alloy cast into the sleeve under centrifugal force.

Pipeline corrosion protection: new Scottish plant

Part of a new 20,000-ton-a-year coal tar enamel plant built for Metrotect, a member of the Anglo American Asphalt Group, at Falkirk, Stirlingshire, to provide corrosion protection coatings to off and onshore pipelines from the North Sea. The plant – with an annual capacity sufficient to protect 500 miles of 36 in diameter pipeline – is supplying pipe manufacturers and coating contractors in Scotland with hot product by road tanker on a daily basis. The plant is an entirely British investment to serve the needs of the North Sea pipeline industry. It will also enable Metrotect to boost exports to over 50 per cent of total production.

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

Sales by Auction

24 May 1976 Textiles – Lots 1 to 514

26 May 1976 Miscellaneous stores Lots 515 to 1583

Location: The Post House, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton SO1 0HJ

Auctioneers: Richard Austin and Wyatt (Dept. L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AX (tel. 03292 4211)

The lots which are lying at various depots in Hampshire include:

On 24 May – 9,000 blankets, greatcoats, raincoats, jerseys, trousers, 800 carpets, leather knee boots, foul weather coats, rags, etc.

On 26 May – alternators, binoculars, boxes, compressors, cordage, electrical spares, generators, 10,000 jerricans, various tools, trolleys, tyres, etc. 54 machine tools. A large quantity of household furniture includihg beds, bureaux, chairs, chests of drawers, steel and wooden wardrobes, various tables, etc., and 10 military chests.

3 and 4 June 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Great Danes Hotel, Ashford Road, Hollingbourne, nr. Maidstone, Kent

Auctioneers: Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept. L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (tel. 01-248 7954)

The stores which are lying a tvarious depots in South East England include machine tools, wood-working machinery, air compressors, Conveyancer-Raymond fork lift truck, acetate-foil winding and forming machine, Pantak mobile x-ray unit, dial indicators, pully blocks, chain blocks, diesel engines, steel tubes and rods, Avery weighing machines, electrical equipment, cameras, multi-coloured teleprinter paper, wrist, pocket and stop watches, clocks, binoculars, Morris 3 ton van, minibuses and saloon cars, Landrovers, Bedford coach and Bedford ambulances, Fordson Major diesel tractor, Ford 7 ton tipper, AEC diesel cargo truck, Austin 3 ton trucks, electric trucks, Scammell recovery truck, Bedford box vans, MT spares and tyres, blankets, raincoats, greatcoats, carpets, mixed and woollen rags, DMS and other boots and shoes, a large quantity of household and office furniture, steel wardrobes, kitchen utensils and numerous other effects.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Sale by Tender

Machine, printing, rotary, offset, 2 colour quad demy, Mann Fast 5 for sale by tender lying at the Mapping and Charting Establishment, Feltham, Middlesex. The machine can be inspected at the Establishment on presentation of a copy of the Ministry of Defence tender documents obtainable from The Directorate of Sales Supply, Sales Supply 6aii, Ministry of Defence, St. Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1, tel. 01-928 7999 ext. 4061.

Britain

Scottish industry and North Sea oil

Prepared in the Scottish Economic Planning Department by Richard Pounce, Richard Upson and Colin Walker

An analysis of the importance of oil-related activity in the Scottish economy was published in the *Scottish Economic Bulletin* of February 1975. This was based on a survey undertaken in the latter part of 1974. The article which follows is based on the same survey but provides rather fuller information and updates the results as far as possible. The Scottish Office has plans to carry out a new survey during the course of the present year and it is expected that results from it will be published in due course.

It is ironical that it was the numerous applications for exemption from the emergency restrictions on the use of electricity imposed during the 1973-74 energy crisis which first revealed that the industrial spin-off in Scotland from North Sea oil* was much greater than was commonly supposed. The exemption licences issued to firms involved in oil-related work provided a unique source of information and an analysis of the data was undertaken by the Department of Industry's Glasgow Office (now part of the Scottish Economic Planning Department). The information was, however, limited and to fill in some of the gaps a more comprehensive survey of oil-related industry in Scotland was undertaken in the latter part of 1974. The first results, with special emphasis on the employment impact of North Sea oil, were published in the February 1975 issue of the *Scottish Economic Bulletin*. This article draws together the more important findings of the survey.

The starting point for the survey was the original list of firms granted licences during the emergency and this was supplemented by reference to many industry and departmental sources of information. More than 700 companies known to be, or thought likely to be, involved in oil-related work were sent a questionnaire and their response was exceptionally good. While the questionnaire was kept as straightforward as possible to minimise the burden imposed on industry, a wide range of topics was covered and so the survey inevitably made claims on management resources and time. The Scottish Economic Planning Department wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation of all who took part in it.

A striking feature of the exploitation of the North Sea oil and gas resources has been its extremely rapid pace. This, together with the characteristic large upsurges of capital investment, has inevitably been reflected in the fortunes of supporting industries and the picture among these industries is an ever changing one. Consequently it needs to be remembered that the results of the Department's oil survey relate specifically to the latter part of 1974 and do not necessarily reflect the current situation. However, reference is made where appropriate to significant changes that have taken place.

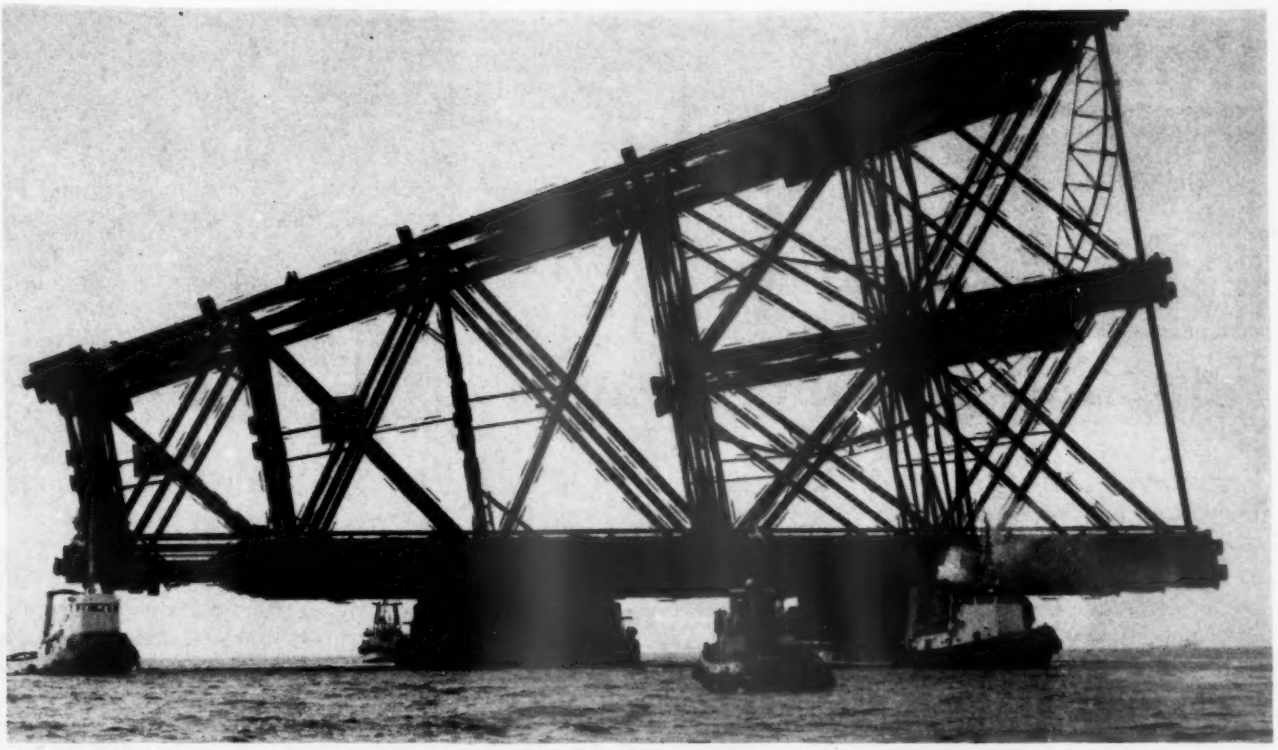
Survey findings

The survey identified a total of 444 companies in Scotland involved in supplying the North Sea oil market. The companies operated 625 separate establishments (manufacturing plants, offices or warehouses) in which the oil-related work was undertaken and at the time of the survey their total workforce amounted to over 111,000 people of whom about 26,000 were estimated to be working on North Sea oil-related contracts. Not all of these were newly-created jobs. Some oil-related jobs were estimated involvement rather than actual jobs since, when a section or sections of a company were not exclusively devoted to North Sea oil work, it was necessary to assess the proportion of the labour force engaged on such work on the basis of company sales to the oil markets. Table 1 (page 419) gives the distribution within Scotland of the units and employment covered by the survey and a breakdown between manufacturing and services.

One feature is the importance of manufacturing industry which accounted for almost 20,000 oil-related jobs (75 per cent of the survey total). The service units, although more numerous, accounted for only 6,600 oil-related jobs. It is also clear that the employment generated by North Sea oil has spilled over from areas such as the north east of Scotland and the Highlands and Islands which for geographical reasons have been in the fore-front of oil-related activity, to Scotland's traditional industrial areas such as Glasgow and Lanarkshire in the central belt. The survey showed that the impact on these areas was much greater than previously recognised and that this had largely resulted from the involvement of existing units (principally in manufacturing) rather than from new industries supplying the North Sea oil market. Because of this predominance of existing industry, however, a substantial proportion of the jobs identified in the traditional industrial areas represents redeployment from non oil-related activities rather than net additions to the regions' labour force (although the alternative to redeployment may, in some cases, have been redundancies).

The survey identified 247 new units which have been set up in Scotland specifically to serve the North Sea oil market and Table 1 shows that these accounted for 14,100 or over 50 per cent of the oil-related jobs. A number of these were new branches of established Scottish companies, providing welcome evidence of new investment activity by the indigenous sector of the economy, but the majority had their origins over-

* Throughout this article 'North Sea oil' should be taken to include natural gas as well as oil.



The 13,000 ton Brent 'A' jacket being towed from the construction yard of Redpath Dorman Long (North Sea) Ltd., at Methil, Fife this week. Standing 502 ft tall the jacket will comprise the second, out of four, production platforms scheduled for the Shell/Esso North Sea Brent field, 112 miles northeast of the Shetlands. It is the world's largest steel jacket completed and floated out.

seas (particularly in the USA) or in other parts of the UK (including many from East Anglia where they had served the offshore gas industry). The previously established units partly engaged in oil-related work were employing 12,200 people.

Products and services supplied to the North Sea oil market

Tables 2 and 3 summarise the information obtained from a detailed analysis of the companies' North Sea oil-related products and services. These tables and the remainder of the article refer to the 444 companies identified in the survey rather than to the 625 plants (or units) because a wider range of information was available for the former from the questionnaires.

Manufacturing

The main source of information on the size and structure of the North Sea oil market for equipment and services is provided by the Offshore Supplies Office (OSO) in its recent analysis of the orders placed by the offshore operating companies*. Of the total value of orders for capital goods placed during 1974 (amounting to £660 million), about £435 million (66 per cent) was accounted for by oil production platforms and other heavy items of equipment such as platform deck modules and general fabrications. The UK content of these orders was estimated by OSO at £210 million (just under 50 per cent) and Scotland has undoubtedly accounted for the major part of this UK contribution. It has five out of the six platform construction yards in the UK and four of the main module assembly yards, as well as a large industrial steelwork capacity.

The next most important item identified by OSO was steel pipe (total orders £85 million) in which the UK content was very low because of the lack of capability for producing the large diameter subsea pipe which was in demand. However, in the case of pipe fittings and well casing pipe (together accounting for £45 million of orders) the UK content was moderate at 49 per cent and 44 per cent respectively. How important the Scottish contribution has been in these two sectors is not known precisely but, as can be seen from Table 2, at least five companies producing tube and pipe fittings as a major part of their oil-related work were identified in the survey and the British Steel Corporation has been active in the west of Scotland in building up its capacity to produce well casing pipe. The coating of onshore and undersea pipelines is estimated by OSO to have accounted for £26 million worth of orders in 1974 and virtually the whole of this was placed in the UK, with Scotland, where two of the three UK pipe-coating plants are located, playing a major part.

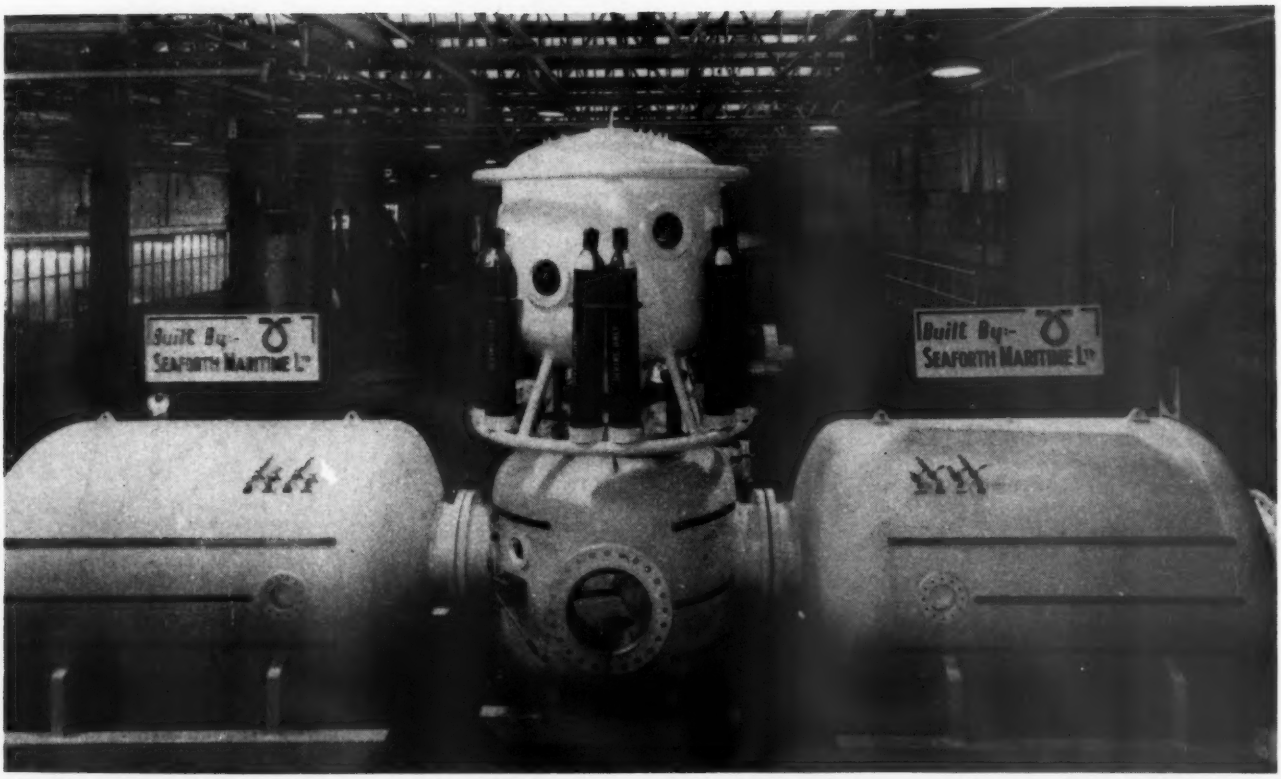
The remaining capital goods sectors identified by OSO (worth £69 million) include power generation equipment, pumps, compressors, process plant, communications equipment, and all show a relatively high UK content. The Scottish contribution here is even harder to assess but Table 2 shows that there were five companies in Scotland producing engines turbines, pumps and compressors as a major part of their oil-related output, a further 15 engaged in the production of electrical and electronic equipment and five producing various items of oilfield and welding equipment.

The effect is that oil-related employment in manufacturing is concentrated in a few well defined sectors which largely reflect the pattern of demand highlighted by the OSO figures. These sectors are the construction of steel and concrete production platforms (5,000 jobs)*, industrial plant and steelwork, including modules (4,000 jobs), iron and steel manufacture (2,400), shipbuilding and repairing (2,300), industrial engines, turbines, compressors and pumps (1,100) and metal finishing including pipe coating (800) – a total of 15,600 jobs, nearly 80 per cent of the total oil-related jobs in manufacturing.

Table 2 also illustrates the wide range of other areas in

* 'Offshore oil and gas – a summary of orders placed by operators of oil and gas fields on the UK Continental Shelf during 1974', Offshore Supplies Office, HMSO.

* Since 1974 employment has increased particularly in this sector (see section on Current Position, page 418).



A 1,000 ft. saturation diving system on show at the Inverurie plant of Seaforth Maritime Ltd., the Aberdeen based offshore supply and service company. The entire system and control consoles were manufactured in Scotland by companies within the Engineering Division of Seaforth Maritime.

which Scottish industry has some North Sea oil-related involvement, albeit on a small scale, from chemicals (eg barytes, diving gases, explosives and paint) to clothing (to meet cold conditions) or from scientific and industrial instruments (eg flow measurement equipment and control valves) to cement and concrete products (eg foundation piles for platforms and limestone powder for pipe coatings). These additional sectors account for 4,200 jobs bringing the manufacturing total to nearly 20,000.

Services

Table 3 gives details about the services supplied by firms based in Scotland to the North Sea oil market. Because of the proximity of the oilfields Scotland has received a large influx of specialist service companies and of distributors which have been set up close to the centre of North Sea oil activity. In addition, Scottish consulting engineers and scientists, architects and design and management consultants have also broken into the North Sea oil market, although in employment terms their impact may not have been very great. The main sectors covered by the survey were offshore contracting (2,600 jobs)*, distribution (1,200), transport services (1,000) and professional and technical services (1,000). A large proportion of the distributors were found to be acting as outlets for manufacturers based overseas or in other parts of the UK and they were most active in such product areas as oilwell drilling and production equipment, diving and safety equipment, and drilling muds, cements and chemicals, in all of which Scottish industry's manufacturing capability is not very large.

* There is in the survey an undercount of offshore jobs because of the non-response of certain oil exploration contractors and because of the omission of offshore pipelaying and installation services.

The customer/supplier pattern

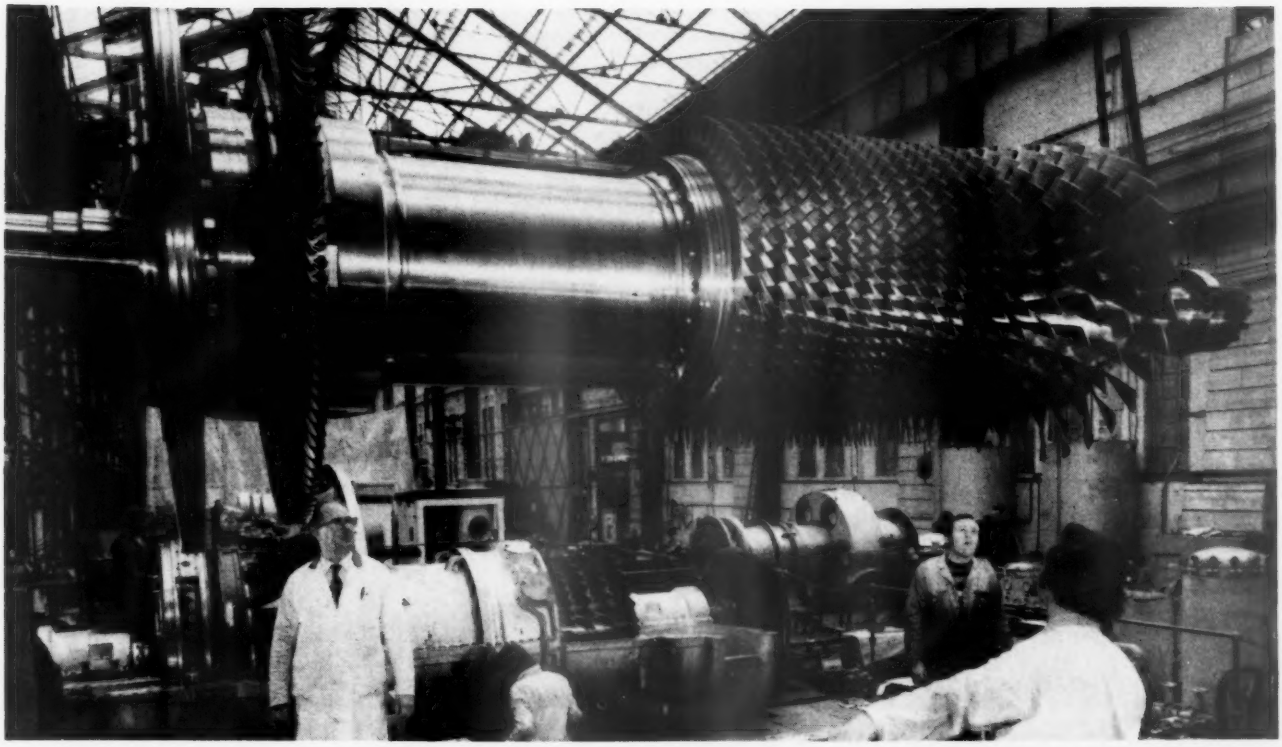
All companies in the survey were asked to list the firms which took 10 per cent or more of their North Sea oil-related output or turnover and 262 companies (about 60 per cent) replied. The customers listed in the replies were divided into various categories according to their function (eg oil companies, platform constructors, etc.) and because some firms were supplying more than one type of customer, the total number of replies recorded came to over 400. The results, distinguishing between manufacturing and service suppliers, were as shown in Table 4.

Several problems were associated with this analysis (for example oil companies often order equipment on behalf of the platform producers; and it was sometimes difficult to identify the nature of purchasers' activities) but the broad pattern that emerged was clear. The major producers of oil-related capital equipment (ie the platform and module constructors and the pipe coaters) constituted a major purchasing sector for manufacturing companies, 69 (30 per cent) of which said they were supplying this sector. Roughly equal in importance for the manufacturers were the oil companies and the offshore contractors (23 per cent) followed by other manufacturing companies (22 per cent). The latter illustrate the extent of subcontracting of oil-related work in the manufacturing sector and the fact that a proportion of the companies identified in the survey are only indirectly involved in oil work through other manufacturers.

The pattern in the service sector is completely different. A total of 93 service firms (53 per cent) said they were supplying the oil companies and offshore contractors directly, 34 (19 per cent) the platform constructors and 30 (17 per cent) other service companies.

Diversification

Companies were asked whether their North Sea oil work represented their normal line of activity or whether it had involved the development of completely new or distinctly



A typical 24MW heavy duty industrial gas turbine being assembled at the works of John Brown Engineering Gas Turbines Ltd., Clydebank, Dunbartonshire. Similar units have been supplied for both on-shore and off-shore installations in the North Sea and to oil-related industries in various other parts of the world.

modified products and services. Firms accounting for one-third of the North Sea oil manufacturing employment replied that they were supplying their normal products to the North Sea oil market. This reflects the fact that some of the companies (particularly the newly set up ones, but also some existing Scottish companies) have had previous oil industry experience and have simply extended or switched their attention to the North Sea, but it also reflects the fact that a large proportion of the demands from the North Sea comprises standard items of engineering equipment or fabrication work in which Scottish industry has considerable expertise.

Of the manufacturing firms who replied that they had developed new or modified products in order to break into the North Sea oil market, 67 were established Scottish manufacturers and the main areas of activity into which they have diversified include the production of modules for oil platforms, the construction of oil supply boats, the manufacture of special bulk containers and fabrications for platforms and rigs and the manufacture of oil well casing and conductor pipe and of coatings for underwater pipelines. It is also interesting that some Scottish manufacturers have moved into the service field, with, for example, the provision of mud logging services and the setting up of comprehensive shore base facilities for the offshore operations (involving transport and goods handling, warehousing, plant rental, repair and maintenance and management and logistic services).

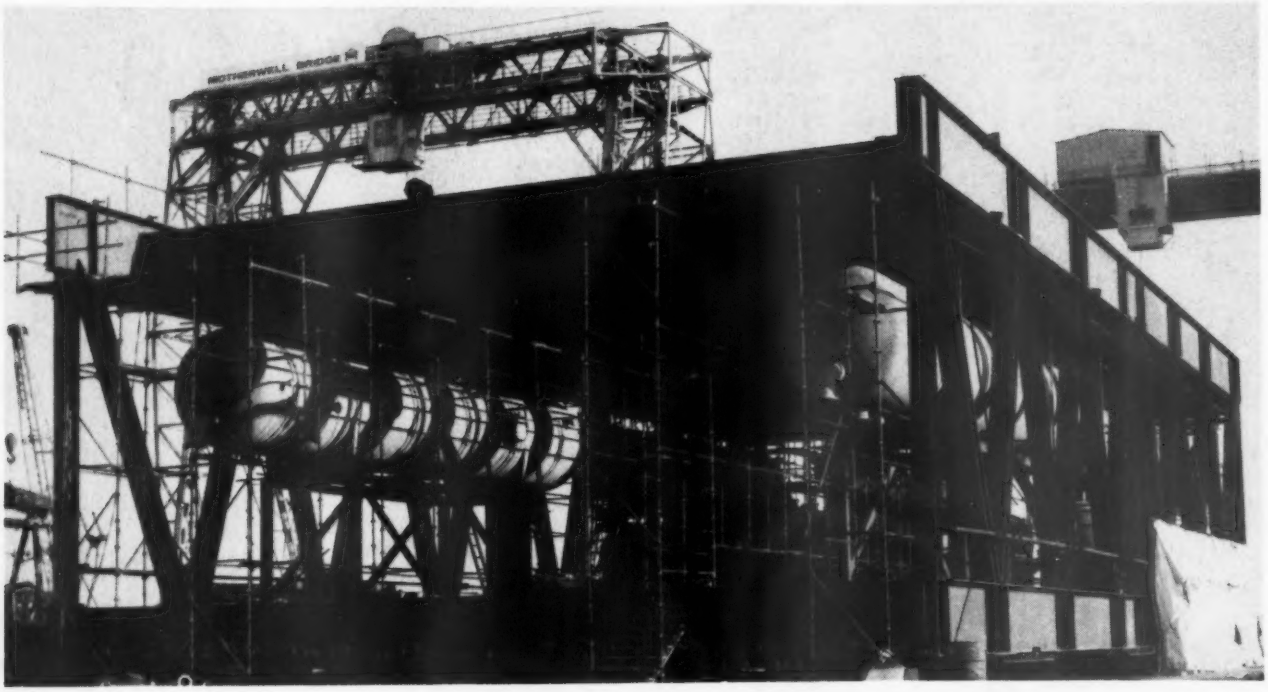
Companies responsible for about 80 per cent of the North Sea oil employment in services replied that their North Sea oil work was a continuation of their normal line of activity. Since firms new to Scotland accounted for a large part of the service sector the answers reflect the fact that the vast majority are experienced suppliers of the international oil industry.

Associations with overseas firms

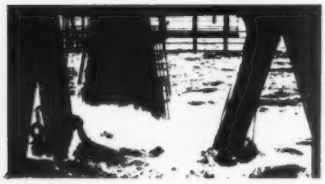
The companies were asked whether their participation in North Sea oil work had involved the taking out of a licence on an overseas product or process or whether it had involved a joint venture or some other association with an overseas firm. Just over 20 per cent of the manufacturing companies who answered the question mentioned some form of association with overseas firms but this included only 16 established Scottish manufacturers. There was, however, some evidence that a larger number of manufacturers were actively seeking to participate more fully in North Sea oil markets by entering into agreements with overseas companies. A larger proportion of service firms (39 per cent) said they were involved in such associations but most of these took the form of distribution or agency agreements.

Involvement in other offshore oil markets

A substantial number of the firms were found to be supplying other offshore oil markets of the world as well as the North Sea although the extent of the commitment to export markets was, with a few notable exceptions, relatively modest. In manufacturing there were 72 such companies (about 30 per cent of those who answered the question) including most of the largest firms. The majority of these firms were established Scottish manufacturers and the main products they were exporting included valves, iron and steel castings, steel tubes, wire rope, industrial hollow-ware, electric controllers and oilwell drilling and production equipment. The firms were also asked whether their involvement in other offshore oil work had begun before or after their involvement in North Sea oil work. Of the 63 manufacturing companies who replied 40 of the largest firms said that their other offshore oil work predated their North Sea oil work which suggests that previous experience of supplying the oil industry has been useful to certain sectors of Scottish industry, both in terms of contacts and of techniques, in making the transition to North Sea oil markets. It may also be that some of the firms concerned simply substituted North Sea oil markets for other offshore oil markets. Only 23 of the smaller firms replied that they had progressed from the North Sea to world offshore markets but they are of interest because they provide evidence, albeit on a small scale, that the experience



A 1,200 ton gas/oil separator module for Shell/Esso's Brent 'A' field.



and contacts built up in home markets can lead to orders further afield. In service industries the proportion of firms claiming to be involved in work for world offshore markets was rather smaller (about 20 per cent) and the majority of these were companies new to Scotland with long experience of serving the oil industry.

Current position

Mention was made earlier of the fact that the survey results relate to the latter part of 1974 and this concluding section attempts to give such later information as exists about employment trends. There is currently some evidence of a lull in the ordering of oil-related materials and equipment but it is not clear to what extent it has percolated through to the whole range of suppliers. Against this must be set the results of the Department of Employment's monthly inquiry which shows that the employment of firms engaged exclusively in supplying the North Sea oil industry increased by about 10,500 (74 per cent) to a total of 24,600, between October 1974 and February 1976. Increases have been recorded in almost every month over the past year although it is worth remembering that substantial fluctuations are common in the industry as work is stepped up or run down at the major fabrication yards. In the case of oil platform construction, for example, one new yard has come into operation and work has been stepped up at existing yards, leading to an increase of 3,000 jobs (to a current total of about 8,000) since October 1974. Nevertheless there are doubts about future employment prospects. One factor is the possibility of changes in offshore ordering away from non-buoyant structures. Much may therefore depend on the ability of platform yards to adapt to a changing market picture.

Thus the current position is that the Department of Employment estimates that 24,600 people were in firms wholly engaged in North Sea oil work in February 1976, while the survey identified a further 12,000 oil-related jobs in previously established Scottish units. In all about 37,000 oil-related jobs have been identified, although it is possible that the figure of 12,000 has changed and that it may have been incomplete. To these jobs may be added about 7,000 oil-related jobs known to exist in construction and in offshore installation (sectors which are not included in the Department of Employment nor the survey figures). If consumption multiplier effects of North Sea oil activities are taken into account the overall impact of North Sea oil on employment in Scotland may be estimated to be 50-55,000.

Notes on coverage

Certain sectors of the economy, such as financial institutions, public utilities and public administration, were not covered in the survey. In addition, the construction industry (including offshore pipelaying and installation), although initially included in the survey, was excluded from the main part of this report because of considerable problems of definition and coverage.

It became clear from the replies that some firms inevitably lacked information about the final destination of their products. Companies most affected were those at an early stage of the manufacturing process producing, for example, castings, forgings or ball bearings. Every attempt was made to trace the spin-off from North Sea oil as far back in the production chain as possible but obviously there will be some elements not accounted for in the survey figures.

Although the response to the survey was exceptionally good – about 80 per cent – by its very nature it inevitably fell short of a complete coverage. Non-response was almost confined to smaller firms, particularly those engaged in services; and this has resulted in a somewhat lower coverage in the north east (especially in the Aberdeen area) than in other parts of Scotland. Because, however, it was judged to be not a very large factor (particularly in terms of employment) no allowance has been made for non-response in the main figures reported in the article; but it was taken into account in the assessment of the overall impact of oil-related work in Scotland.

TABLE 1 Distribution of North Sea oil employment in Scotland – Autumn 1974

		Manufacturing		Services(3)		Total	
		No. of units	Estimate of NSO employment	No. of units	Estimate of NSO employment	No. of units	Estimate of NSO employment
North east and Highlands and Islands(1)	Established units	53	1,500	62	500	115	1,900
	Specifically set up units	36	4,400	189	5,400	225	9,800
Central belt and south of Scotland(2)	Established units	186	9,800	77	500	263	10,200
	Specifically set up units	14	4,100	8	100	22	4,300
Total Scotland	Established units	239	11,200	139	1,000	378	12,200
	Specifically set up units	50	8,600	197	5,600	247	14,100
	Total	289	19,800	336	6,600	625	26,300

Figures have been rounded and may not add up to totals.
(1) Grampian, Highland and Tayside Regions, Western Isles, Orkneys and Shetlands.
(2) Strathclyde, Lothian, Central Fife, Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Regions.
(3) a Classification based on the Kompass directory. If the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) had been used this sector would have to be called 'non manufacturing' as it includes some establishments classified as Mining and Quarrying under the SIC.
b Excludes construction.

TABLE 2 Products manufactured in Scotland for North Sea oil markets

Product group (1974 Kompass directory classification)	No. of companies (1)	Estimated NSO-related employment (Autumn 1974)
Chemicals and petroleum products	10	200
Metal manufacture(2)	15	2,400
Metal products and metal finishing	98	10,100
of which:		
Oil production platforms – steel	3	4,000†
Industrial plant and steelwork(3)	30	4,000†
General sub-contractors	21	200
Metal finishing(4)	8	800
Valves	7	400
Industrial hollow-ware	7	300
Wire products, chains, etc.	7	400
Tube and pipe fittings	5	300
Other metal products	10	100
Machinery and equipment	34	1,700
of which:		
Engines, turbines, pumps and compressors	5	1,100
Mechanical handling equipment	3	100
Oilfield and welding equipment	5	200
Other machinery	21	400
Scientific and industrial instruments	7	200
Electrical and electronic equipment	15	500
Transport equipment	27	3,100
of which:		
Shipbuilding and repairing	7	2,300
Repair and maintenance of offshore structures	15	600
Other transport equipment	5	200
Textiles and clothing	5	*
Cement and concrete products(5)	10	1,600
Timber and timber products	6	100
Printing	7	100
Rubber and plastic products	4	*
Total all products groups	238	19,800

* Under 50.
† All the employment figures have been rounded and these to the nearest thousand.
(1) Companies whose sole or main oil-related output comprises the items listed.
(2) The divisions of the British Steel Corporation have been treated as separate 'companies'.
(3) Includes assembly of modules for production platforms.
(4) Includes coating of land and marine pipelines.
(5) Includes concrete oil production platforms – the Lock Kishorn yard is, however, not included because it came into operation after the survey was completed.

TABLE 3 Services provided to North Sea oil markets

Type of service (1974 Kompass directory classification)	No. of companies (1)	Estimated NSO-related employment (Autumn 1974)
Offshore contractors	17	2,600
of which:		
Drilling contractors(2)	10	2,300
Diving contractors	7	300
Transport services	31	1,000
of which:		
Land and marine transport	13	500
Air transport	5	300
Shipping agents, harbour services	13	200
Professional and scientific services	46	1,000
of which:		
Specialist oil industry services (3)	10	400
Consulting engineers and architectural services	17	200
Inspection and testing services	8	300
Management consultants	7	100
Consulting scientists, geological surveys	4	100
Oilfield supply bases	9	600
Distribution	94	1,200
of which:		
Distributor – mainly for overseas manufacturers	33	400
Distributor – mainly for UK manufacturers	39	500
General wholesaler, stockholder	22	300
Other services	9	300
of which:		
Catering services	3	200
Supply of labour and other services	6	100
Total all services	206	6,600

The employment figures have been rounded.
(1) Companies whose sole or main oil related activity involves the provision of the services listed.
(2) Normally classified (in the SIC 1968) to the primary sector rather than the service sector.
(3) For example, well logging, production testing, wireline and completion services, directional drilling and cementing services, installation of mooring systems, certification of platform, etc.

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TABLE 4 Number of companies supplying the various sectors

Classification of suppliers	Purchasing sectors: Oil companies and offshore contractors		Platform and module constructors pipe coaters		Other major manufacturing companies		Other major service companies		Others		Total	
Manufacturing	65	(28%)	69	(30%)	51	(22%)	33	(14%)	15	(6%)	233	(100%)
Services	93	(53%)	34	(19%)	8	(5%)	30	(17%)	10	(6%)	175	(100%)
Total	158	(39%)	103	(25%)	59	(15%)	63	(15%)	25	(6%)	408	(100%)

Gas gathering pipeline systems in the North Sea

The Williams-Merz report, published on Thursday 13 May, considers the technical and economic feasibility of establishing a gas gathering pipeline system in the northern North Sea, north of latitude 56° and east of Scotland. The report was initiated to provide information for the Secretary of State for Energy, Tony Benn, when applications for consents to flare gas are made, by examining whether there would be any possibility of collecting associated gas rather than letting it be wasted.

Discussions with operators

Williams-Merz delivered the report to the Department of Energy in February. It was based on discussions with operators involved in the area. The aim of these discussions was to collect information on costs, technical matters, and reservoir data. For the latter, Williams-Merz employed Robertson Research International to provide the expert opinion. The Department's own Petroleum Engineering Directorate also monitored the data and provided its own information. The report then derived overall costs and gas quantities for the schemes proposed, and subject to a number of limitations imposed by the Government for the sake of speed, its results were encouraging. The Government and Williams-Merz have now edited the report to safeguard the commercial confidences of operators.

Gas supplies already under contract to British Gas are expected to increase gas available by over 50 per cent to about 6,000 million of cubic feet a day (mcfd) by the 1980s; Williams-Merz considered additional gas sources which together could produce a peak supply of another 1,500 mcfd later in the decade, together with 9 million tons a year of heavier gases.

Choice of systems

To pick up this gas Williams-Merz recommend a choice of pipeline systems which might be economically viable. They studied two alternative cases and their broad conclusions are:

1 If existing 'commercial' fields (those for which development plans have been submitted) only are considered, these could support a line to Piper with one branch to Forties and another to the Brent area. But Williams-Merz consider that between them the Brent and Frigg lines could have sufficient spare capacity to carry most of this gas.

2 Taking account of all UK potential reserves in the area, there is enough gas to fill two new pipelines each with a capacity of about 1,000 mcfd. The Southern line would run to Piper, with a branch to Crawford and another to the Montrose area. The Northern line would go via Beryl to the Brent area. This is in addition to contract supplies through Frigg and Brent (plus in the case of Brent, gas from some small adjacent fields).

The most complete system (that recommended for case 2) would have enough flexibility to be adapted to take gas from new discoveries if current sources were downgraded. Maximum benefit would be achieved if a system became operational in the early 1980s. However, because contract details could not be released Williams-Merz were asked to take no account of possible seasonal obligations affecting throughput of the Brent line. They may therefore have overestimated the scope for using this line to collect other gas.

The Government's initial need, met by the report, was for a rapid and comprehensive overview of the situation. It therefore asked Williams-Merz to accept a number of uncertainties, particularly relating to reserves and production schedules, for the sake of speed. Waiting for greater certainty would have delayed the opportunity now available to throw open the question to discussion by interested parties. It would also have delayed the planning and completion of any possible system and increased the amount of gas flared before a system could get going.

Views invited

The Secretary of State in his reply to a Parliamentary Question has now invited all interested parties to give their views on the report and on possible gathering systems by the end of July. The Government is studying gathering pipeline schemes in other parts of the world for the lessons to be learned. It recognises the need for full-scale further studies if any scheme is to have a firm basis, and would like suggestions as to how the scheme might be organised. Whoever took part would need at least to have access to the confidential data involved in further studies. Meanwhile the Secretary of State has announced that he will consider applications for consents to flaring against the framework provided by the report.

Further studies will certainly need to concentrate on reservoir information. They will also need to make corrections for the simplifiying assumptions imposed, for the sake of speed, on Williams-Merz. Some of the more important of these are:

A load factor of 100 per cent was assumed.

A 10 per cent discount rate was applied.

No allowance was made for taxes and royalties.

It was assumed space would be available on platforms for extra equipment as necessary.

The heavier gases would make the same contribution to costs per therm as methane.

For oil fields, the cost of platforms was not charged to gas production.

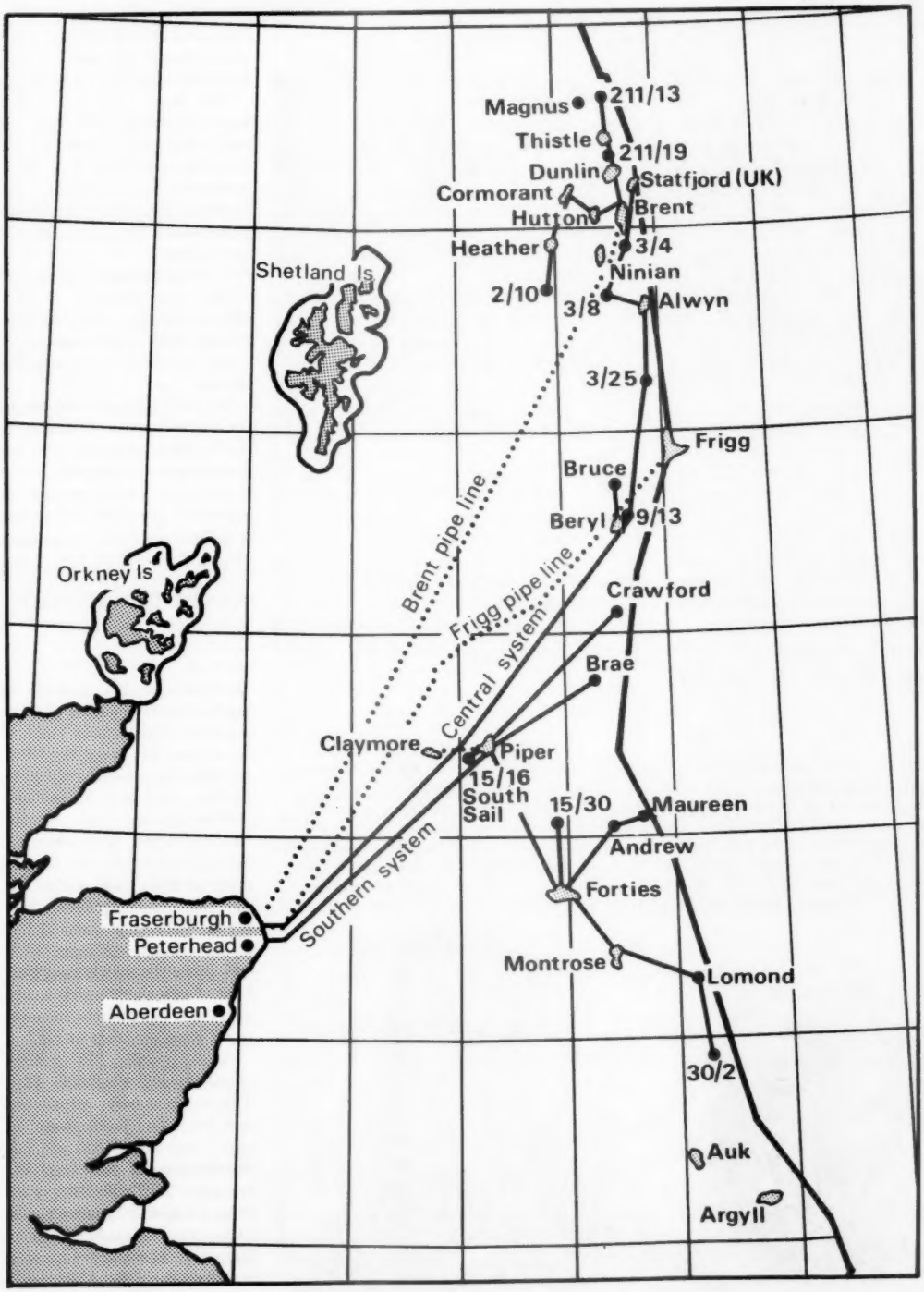
Full costs of collecting gas

The costs quoted in the report imply that gas could be brought ashore for much less than the price of competing fuels. However, the effect of the assumptions listed is that the analysis omits significant elements of cost as only the absolute minimum transportation cost is derived. The full costs of collecting the gas are likely to be higher than those developed in the report, and further study is needed to establish them.

A gathering system such as that proposed in the report would land significant amounts of heavier gases. The ethane available, when added to that from Brent, could provide the basis for major petrochemical developments in this country. The Government is urgently considering its possible uses and would welcome suggestions, particularly from the oil and petrochemical industries.

Finally the Government would like to express its gratitude to the operators who have been extremely helpful in providing confidential data to its consultants.

* The Williams-Merz Report 'A Study of Gas Gathering Pipeline systems in the North Sea'. Copies can be obtained from the Department of Energy Library, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ. Price £10 post free, payment in advance, by cheque only, payable to 'Department of Energy'.



Commercial fields

Larger discovered fields

Commercial gas pipelines planned or under construction

Gas pipelines proposed as one of four options in the Williams-Merz report to the Department of Energy

Technology News

Cleaning up newspapers – new de-inking machine

A new British de-inking system for recycling waste paper has been achieved through the co-operation of Bowaters United Kingdom Paper Co. Ltd., Watford Engineering Ltd. – now part of Newell Dunford Engineering Ltd. and known as N. D. Watford – and the Department of Industry.

The plant, in production at Bowaters' Kemsley Mill, in Kent, has been designed, built, installed and commissioned without the involvement of any company outside the UK.

De-inking is a process which extracts ink from printed waste so that the fibres can be reclaimed and prepared for reuse in the production of paper. The waste has to be pulped and purged of its ink particles and inconvertible fibres. Special features of the new process, it is claimed, make it possible to recycle waste newsprint several times, thereby prolonging the useful life, ie the strength of fibres. The process has taken four years to develop from initial government sponsorship and including additional work on de-inking agents. It differs from the conventional floatation system and is said to remove harmful fillers and abrasives more effectively.

The process begins with the pulping of bales of over-issues and old newspapers on their return to the Kemsley Mill from national newspapers and householders. Chemicals are added at the pulper which is operated on a batch system at a consistency of 5 per cent. The pulp is then pumped to a dump chest where it is kept in suspension by agitation, thus allowing the chemicals to continue their action.

High-density vortex type cleaners are used for the removal of heavy contraries. Unwanted contraries – plastics, string, pins, knotted fibres – which escape the high density cleaner are removed by passing the stock through a Watford-Lejeune Centrifiner. The unit also provides gentle deflaking of the stock.

Rejects from the Centrifiner pass over a Watford vibrating screen for the separation of usable fibres from any particularly stubborn foreign bodies which have stayed with the stock. The recovered fibres are returned to the dump chest while the rejected material is put aside for disposal.

The 'washing and fibre recovery stage' of the de-inking process is crucial. Accepted fibre stock from the Centrifiner is dropped into a stock chimney, diluted to approximately 2 per cent consistency and pumped to a constant-level box feeding Watford RBS3 screw-presses for dewatering to about 12 per cent consistency. The dilution and dewatering process is repeated in the second stage of washing.

Dilution after the second stage brings the stock to a consistency of about 4 per cent. Dewatering to a consistency of 20 per cent in a Watford RBS2 screw-press follows to make it suitable for the disperser operation.

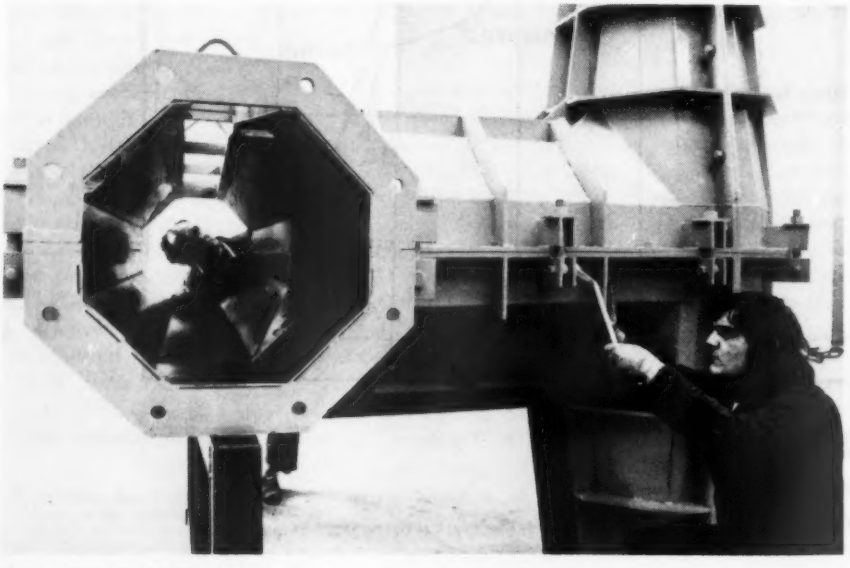
The disperser is a horizontal pulper which has been modified to improve its compacting and kneading action to dislodge any ink particles still adhering to the fibres. It is in the disperser that bleaching chemicals are injected to control the final brightness of the de-inked stock to mill requirements for paper production.

Filtrate extracted at each washing stage is passed back through the plant to be used for dilution in the preceding stage. Fresh water is only used at the final stage and the filtrate from the first stage is pumped out of the system.

Instrumentation and control of the entire de-inking process is achieved by the use of flow-meters, flow recorders, level controls and consistency regulators, co-ordinated with production schedules and governed by an automatic push-button console.

The shape of sea defences

A mould for producing an entirely new concrete block, designed to prevent damage from the sea. The breaking down of sea defences and shore based structures has been of concern to civil engineers for a long time. These 'Dolos blocks', tetrahedral concrete forms, are manufactured to a high degree of accuracy and then dumped in the sea where the movement of water shuffles them about until they link together to form a natural breakwater. Wave damage is thought to be due to the air being released as the wave breaks and the advantage of these blocks is that they enable the air to escape. First to be used as a sea defence during the construction of the Torness Point Nuclear Power Station, East Scotland the blocks are being made by Fielding and Bacon Ltd. of Erith.



Conference will provide world-wide forum

Sir Ieuan Maddock, chief scientist, Department of Industry, will preside at the opening session of PROLAMAT '76, the international conference on programming languages for machine tools to be held at the University of Stirling, Scotland, from 15-18 June.

The National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, is organising the conference. The sponsors are the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) and the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC). Some 300 delegates, many from overseas, are expected. The programme will cover the whole range of activities in the field of computer-aided manufacture and include an opportunity to see something of the latest developments at NEL.

At the opening session there will be invited papers from Professor H. Yoshikawa, of Tokyo University, on an unmanned factory and from Dr. J. Hatvany, of the Computer and Automation Institute, Budapest, on 'The distribution of functions in manufacturing systems'. With 30 other papers by scientists from Canada, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the German Federal Republic, Hungary, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, USA and the USSR, the conference will provide an international forum for users, suppliers and research workers in the field of computerised manufacture. PROLAMAT '76 is the third in an international series of conferences, the first two having been held in Rome, 1969, and in Budapest, 1973.

Testing oil rigs in the wind tunnel

The effects of gale force winds on North Sea oil rigs are being studied by the British Aircraft Corporation at Filton.

Using the wind tunnel in which much of the Concorde research was carried out, engineers are looking at the problems of high winds and icing on critical parts, such as the helicopter pad, the air conditioning inlets and the 400 ft flare stack.

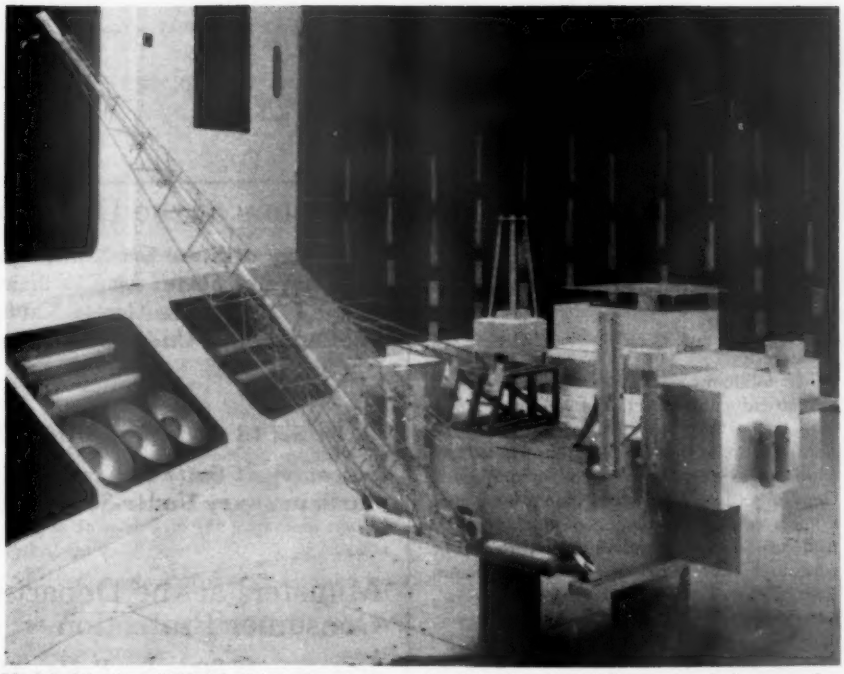
Cantilevered from the main structure at an angle of 45 degrees the flare stack will burn off vapour at a safe distance from the production point, but before construction begins, its dynamic behaviour and the behaviour of the gas flame will be studied. To make this possible a piped supply of ethane and methane will be supplied to the flare stack model.

An exact replica of the proposed design, the 1/100 scale model includes fine tubing down to a few thousandths of an inch wall thickness, while ice will be simulated by liquid candlewax painted on to the flare stack.

To create the different wind velocity and turbulence found in open sea conditions, a turbulence/velocity gradient screen has been developed, consisting of wooden slats mounted on horizontally stretched wires to fit across the working section of the wind tunnel upstream of the model. The slats are graded in width and length so the turbulence is greater at ground level than at height.

Wind tunnel testing has already proved useful in the layout of ventilation inlets and exhausts. Designers for one large platform discovered that their proposed duct arrangements were extremely sensitive to wind force and direction, so they examined alternative schemes and were able to arrive at a more satisfactory solution. Similarly, a knowledge of pressures at the various inlet and exhaust locations has proved useful in determining capacity and power required.

On both the Statoil/Mobil Group platform and the platforms in the Ninian Field, wind tunnel tests have helped determine safe operating limits for helicopters. Wind deflection and turbulence over the heli-deck was measured by recording the behaviour of wool tufts swivelled on small wire masts.



Model of the Statoil/Mobil oil rig in the wind tunnel at Bristol, testing air flow and turbulence on the helicopter deck and the effects of wind and icing on the giant cantilevered flare stack, which is 400 ft high. The turbulence/velocity gradient screen stands upstream of the model.

All you want to know about racks and pallets

The Storage Equipment Manufacturers' Association has now published the first of its Codes of Practice – for users of pallet racking and associated handling equipment.

In some detail it covers such safety factors as operating tolerances, stability, operation and maintenance, rack protection, etc.

The price is 70p (including postage within the UK) and the cost of Terms and Descriptions of Storage Equipment is £4.00, from the Storage Equipment Manufacturers' Association, 7 Ludgate Broadway, London EC4V 6DX, tel. 01-248 1661.

Less fuel when the sun shines

The Consumer Power Co. Ltd. of Saffron Walden, Essex, have developed a storage boiler system which provides both central heating and domestic hot water. The unusual feature in this case is that while the system normally runs on electricity, it can be switched over to solar energy as an optional extra.

To what extent this represents an advantage depends on the amount of sunlight available, and units are now being tested in Australia, Greece, Israel and Switzerland, as well as in England.

The heavily-insulated electric storage boiler which has financial support from the National Research Development Corporation operates at off-peak electricity tariffs using water as the thermal storage medium. It is designed so that water can be heated to a high temperature by a bank of immersion heaters placed low in the tank, operating on the cheap night electricity tariff. The controlling thermostat is set to give maximum storage temperature in relation to the working pressure, which can be up to a 40 ft head but the water temperature is reduced to 160°F before entering a normal radiator circuit by the use of mixer valves. Another set of immersion heaters, situated near the outlet, is thermostatically controlled to maintain the correct flow temperature should very cold weather produce an unusually heavy demand for heat when the off-peak tariff is inoperative.

Standard Centralec boilers can be equipped with internal heat exchangers to provide up to 2-3 gallons per minute of domestic hot water at a constant temperature of 140°F (60°C).

Solar energy may be used with these boilers, since Consumer Power Co. Ltd. also produce solar panels designed to reduce fuel consumption in either Centralec boilers or in other water heating systems utilising electricity, oil, gas or solid fuel. Energy is captured from the sun's rays by the Thermasol solar heat collector and is transferred to the electric storage boiler by means of a heat exchanger. This reduces the electrical energy need to reheat the boiler overnight or to top up the water temperature for central heating.

For further information contact: Consumer Power Co. Ltd., Saffron Walden, Essex.

Bearing materials for hostile environments

The design of industrial bearings can present great problems in environments involving high or low temperatures or the presence of gases, liquids or abrasives. Solutions depend very largely on the correct choice of materials for bearing manufacture; a one-day course will be held at the National Centre of Tribology, Risley, on 17 June 1976.

The lecturers will be: T. S. Eyre, Brunel University; J. C. Gregory, consultant in surface treatments; Dr. P. Elliott, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology; G. D. Galvin, Shell Thornton Research Centre; and E. R. Braithwaite, Climax Molybdenum Co. Ltd.

For practising engineers and engineering designers, application forms and programmes are available from: A. J. Walton, National Centre of Tribology, UKAEA, Risley, Warrington WA3 6AT. Tel. Warrington 31244, ext. 2640/3522. The fee will be £37.80.

Parliament

Monday, 3 May

Planning Agreements

Mr. Brian Sedgemore (Luton West) asked if the Vauxhall management had yet signified their agreement to enter into a Planning Agreement with the Government; and, if so, what was the expected role of the unions.

Mr. Williams said: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend has already announced the names of companies who have agreed to operative discussions. In addition exploratory talks are continuing with a number of other companies. Generally, the Government's intention is that as part of the Planning Agreement process trade union representatives from firms will be consulted closely by the companies about their plans. The union representatives will have the opportunity to take part, if they so wish, in discussions about the agreements with the Government.'

Mr. Sedgemore asked when a Planning Agreement with Chrysler (UK) Ltd. could be expected; and the role of the trades union in drawing up this agreement.

'Discussions are in progress with a view to concluding a Planning Agreement this year,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'The company will consult their trade union representatives about future plans and these representatives will also have the opportunity to take part in discussions with Government about the agreement.'

AEI Scientific Apparatus Ltd.

Mr. Churchill (Stretford) asked about representations received by the Secretary of State for Industry from employees of AEI Scientific Apparatus Ltd., Trafford Park, in regard to the implementation of the Government's policy of commitment July 1975 to merge the principal firms involved in this field in the UK.

Mr. Williams replied: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend recently received representations from the union side of the National Joint Consultative Council for GEC/English Electric. I will be meeting them shortly. There is no Government commitment to a merger, but my department is in discussion with NEB about a possible partner.'

Insolvency law

Mr. John Loveridge (Havering, Upminster) asked for legislation to be introduced to provide for the removal of a name from the public register of petitions and register of receiving orders in bankruptcy where the order of adjudication has been annulled, the receiving order rescinded and the petition dismissed.

'I will certainly see that this matter is fully considered in the course of the general review of insolvency law in which my department is now engaged,' replied Mr. Clinton Davis.

EEC levy on potatoes

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would find out from the EEC the purpose of the 12 per cent levy on imported potatoes introduced on 25 April, and if the EEC obtained, or was required to obtain, the permission of HMG to impose this levy; and whether Great Britain or the EEC obtains the money raised.

'The 12 per cent charge on new potatoes is not a new tax,' said Mr. Meacher. 'It is a protective import duty which was suspended until 25 April in accordance with the Import Duty (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) No. 7 Order 1976 after which the duty automatically became effective again. The council of ministers in fact decided on 29 April to extend the suspension until 20 May. I am recommending the Treasury to make a further order to implement this decision.

'In accordance with Article 28 of the Treaty of Rome any suspension or alteration of an EEC customs duty requires a unanimous decision of the council of ministers which includes, of course, a member of Her Majesty's Government.

'The question who would obtain money raised by a new tax would be a matter for my Rt. Hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but I understand that the UK's contribution to the European communities funds is not at present directly dependent upon the amount of UK import duty collected.'

Potato prices

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked if a study has been made of evidence of the mass storage of potatoes with the aim of pushing up prices.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'The evidence referred to was found to relate to normal storage by a potato processing firm. Such normal storage is not responsible for the present level of potato prices. Withdrawals from storage need to be phased over the season if supplies are not to be exhausted before the next crop. The present level of prices reflects the shortfall in last year's crop and the small proportion still remaining in stock. Imports of new potatoes, which deteriorate if stored, will now be an increasingly important part of total supplies until this season's home crop is ready.'

Metrication

Mr. Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked when the Government intends to reintroduce the Metrication Bill.

'I intend to proceed with the Weights and Measures, Etc., Bill as soon as possible,' said Mr. Fraser.

Decimalisation

Mr. Tim Sainsbury (Hove) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has any evidence that decimalisation contributed to increased prices.

'The Decimal Currency Board in their Final Report (September 1971) expressed the view that the changeover had not put up prices,' replied Mr. Maclennan. 'I have seen no evidence since, which demonstrates that this conclusion was mistaken.'

Alcoholic drinks and tobacco

Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: 'Whether she has yet received the Price Commission's report on the effect of the Price Code provisions relating to indirect taxes other than value added tax on the gross percentage margins and net profit margins of distributors of alcoholic drinks and tobacco?'

Mrs. Williams answered: 'These reports are now complete and are being made available to the press and to interested parties. I am arranging for copies to be placed in the Library, and shall be asking interested parties for their views.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Tuesday, 4 May

Credit support: aerospace equipment for Egypt

The Earl of Kimberley asked why the Treasury refused to give extended credit to the aerospace industry, 'as a result of which an export order in excess of £300 million to Egypt has been lost to France.'

Lord Oram, answered: 'I take this to refer to a recent newspaper report that the Egyptian Government are to purchase various military aircraft from France. It has been the practice of successive UK Governments not to disclose details of arms sales, but I can say that no request for credit support has been received from the Egyptian Government for aerospace equipment.'

Paper mills

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked how many paper mills closed in the period 1967 to 1975.

Mr. Williams told him that about 30 paper mills closed completely during the period. About five of the closures had taken place since 1972.

Mr. Smith also asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would institute a public inquiry into the state of the paper-making industry.

'The paper and board industry is included in the Government's Industrial Strategy List,' said Mr. Williams. 'A tripartite working group is studying the industry, and considering possible solutions to its problems.'

Metrication

Mr. Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked what steps are being taken by the Government in order to fulfil its obligation to implement metrication by 1978.

Mr. Fraser replied: 'Under the Treaty of Accession the UK accepted an obligation in 1972 to adopt the International System of Units (SI system) for most purposes and to cease the use of imperial units. Our obligations are firstly to authorise the use of SI units by April 1978, and secondly to phase out the use of imperial units. The timetable for this phasing out has not yet been finally settled, but under current proposals put forward by the EEC commission some imperial units would cease to be authorised at the end of 1977, some at the end of 1979 and the future of the remainder would be reviewed before the end of 1979. Details were given by my predecessor in his reply of 26 March to my Hon. Friend the Member for Newham South (Vol. 908, Cols. 317-18).

'I envisage that the authorisation of the use of SI units will be dealt with in regulations made under Section 2(2) of the European Communities Act and that legal cut-off dates for the use of imperial units will be dealt with principally under the powers being sought under the Weights and Measures, Etc., Bill.'

Exports of cattle to Italy

Mr. F. A. Burden (Gillingham) asked how many store cattle and cattle for slaughter, respectively, have been exported to Italy in each of the years 1971 to 1976, inclusive.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

	Store cattle and calves	Cattle for slaughter
1971	—	—
1972	175	63
1973	509	—
1974	70	—
1975	20,108	—
1976 January-March	15,362	14

Anti-dumping

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked which industries are concerned in the applications for anti-dumping actions currently being investigated by the Department of Trade.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'Sugarbeet harvesters and polyester fibre have been added to the list of products which have been announced as under investigation for anti-dumping action.

'The following is the complete and corrected list as of now:'

Ladies' single and double textured raincoats
PVC coated fabrics
Dumper trucks
Saccharin
Offset litho printing presses
Steel reinforcing bars
Single beam atomic absorption spectrophotometers
Acrylic sheet
Single and double-barrelled shotguns
Sugarbeet harvesters
Polyester fibre

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked for brief details of the occasions on which HM Government invoked anti-dumping measures since 1959.

Mr. Meacher answered that since 1959 131 anti-dumping or countervailing investigations have been announced by successive Governments. Of this total:

17 applications were withdrawn by applicants before the completion of the investigation.
26 investigations led to the imposition of substantive anti-dumping or countervailing duties.
25 investigations were concluded by the adoption of remedies other than anti-dumping or countervailing duties.
12 investigations are still in progress.

In the remaining cases the applications have been rejected after investigation.

'Export Intelligence Service Gazette'

Mr. Eldon Griffiths (Bury St. Edmunds) asked: 'Why has the cost of a subscription to the Export Intelligence Service Gazette *as published by the British Overseas Trade Board been raised from £100 to £400 per year, with the result that certain small firms engaged in exports who previously benefited from information provided by the* Gazette *no longer can afford to subscribe to it?'*

Mr. Meacher answered: 'The British Overseas Trade Board has increased the charge for the *Gazette* in two stages from £100 to £400 to take account of rising costs and the need for economy in public expenditure.

'The *Gazette* is a daily publication containing all the product and market intelligence received from Diplomatic Posts throughout the world. At £400 it is still offered at substantially below cost and represents good value for firms whose interests are sufficiently extensive to justify their purchasing it.

'Other firms should find the Export Intelligence Card Service at 20p a notice cheaper and more convenient. This service offers a rapid despatch of intelligence matched by computer to subscribers' stated interests.'

ECGD cover for Chile

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked for an assurance that ECGD would not be used in future to finance further orders for military equipment for Chile.

Mr. Meacher said: 'ECGD cover for any business with Chile is severely restricted at present and, in the case of military equipment, would depend on the issue of export licences. As my Rt. Hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs replied on 21 May 1975, no new export licences are being granted for arms to Chile with the exception of spares and equipment relating to existing contracts.'

Mr. Kilroy-Silk also inquired about steps being taken by ECGD to recover unpaid debts incurred by Chilean firms or the Chilean Government from the Chilean Government.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'As my Rt. Hon. Friend the then Paymaster General has previously informed the House, we have formally approached the Chilean Government on a number of occasions about payments of the debts due in 1975 to the UK. Some of these payments are coming through. We shall continue to press the Chilean Government to pay these debts in full.'

Companies House

Mr. Richard Wainwright asked for an estimate of the effect on the total number of staff employed by Companies House as a result of the move of company files to Cardiff from London; and for the current estimated total cost of this operation.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'The number of staff employed in Companies Registration Office, including the Register of Business Names, is expected to be reduced by the completion of the modernisation and dispersal programme from the present total of 1,363 to 1,100, of whom 850 will be in Cardiff. The estimated total cost of the move, including the microfilming of company records, is £7.5 million.'

Capital Annuities Ltd.

Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked for a statement about the affairs of Capital Annuities Ltd.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'Capital Annuities Ltd. was authorised on 6 February 1969 to carry on ordinary long term insurance business in the United Kingdom. The company has concentrated exclusively on the sale of annuities. On 3 October 1975 the company undertook not to take on new business without the consent of the Department of Trade. The directors have now come to the conclusion that the company should cease trading and they presented a petition to the High Court on 30 April for a compulsory winding up order. The Official Receiver has been appointed provisional liquidator to take charge of the assets. Mr. P. F. M. Shewell of Coopers and Lybrand has been appointed special manager.

'The company currently has about 3,500

policyholders. If a winding up order is made, the Policyholders Protection Act 1975 will ensure that Capital Annuities' United Kingdom policyholders will receive 90 per cent of their claims or benefits, subject to a reduction for any over-generous benefits. Meanwhile, following the appointment of the provisional liquidator, the Policyholders Protection Board is urgently considering whether to exercise any of its discretionary powers to protect policyholders available under Sections 15 and 16 of the Policyholders Protection Act. These include the power to provide for the making of interim payments to policyholders in respect of sums which fall due under United Kingdom policies. I understand that the provisional liquidator will be arranging for a letter to be sent to policyholders as soon as practicable.'

Wednesday 5 May

Recycling paper

Mr. Ronald Atkins (Preston North) asked what percentage of paper in the UK is recycled.

'In both 1974 and 1975 about 27 per cent of the paper and board consumed in the UK was made from recycled waste paper,' said Mr. Williams. 'This represented 46 per cent of the total fibre usage of the home industry in those years.'

EEC guidelines for multinationals

Mr. Alan Lee Williams (Havering, Hornchurch) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would discuss with EEC governments guidelines for British multinational firms, in the light of the EEC commission's request for information from British multinational firms for the commission's inventory of multinational concerns.

Mr. Williams answered: 'The EEC commission's survey is aimed at obtaining factual information about some 9,500 multinational companies operating in the community as a basis for considering future policy and HMG will be involved in discussion of any proposals which may result. Work on guidelines for multinational companies is already far advanced in OECD and HMG regularly consults other EEC governments in the context of this work.'

Quality testing

Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would consider the possibility of setting up a system of quality testing for British manufactured goods along the lines of the quality assurance procedure adopted by the Ministry of Defence for goods purchased from private suppliers.

Mr. Fraser answered: 'Inquiries by my department, which are continuing, show that quality assurance procedures similar to those adopted by the Ministry of Defence are being increasingly used by many large purchasers of manufactured goods. However, the inquiries have not so far shown any demand by purchasers for a nationally organised system of quality testing.'

Government appointments

Mr. Philip Holland (Carlton) asked the Secretaries of State for Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection for lists of those bodies to which they appointed members exercising judicial or quasi-judicial functions.

Mr. Williams said that the Secretary of State for Industry would appoint members to an arbitration tribunal constituted under Schedule 3 to the Industry Act, 1975. No such tribunal has, however, yet been set up.

For the Department of Trade Mr. Clinton Davis listed:

Civil Aviation Authority
Performing Right Tribunal
Public Inquiries under Section 8 of the Copyright Act 1956.

For the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection Mr. Fraser answered: 'The only body is the Hearing Aid Council whose Disciplinary Committee exercises judicial functions under Sections 7 and 8 of the Hearing Aid Council Act 1968.'

Thursday, 6 May

Turkish Airlines DC10 accident

Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) inquired about the report of the French investigation into the Turkish Airlines DC-10 accident near Paris on 3 March 1974.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'The French Government have completed their investigation into this tragic accident. They have released copies of the report to the press, and expect it to be published in the *Journal Officiel* very shortly. Copies of an English translation will be made available today to interested parties, to Hon. Members who have expressed their constituents' interest and to the press. The translation will be published by HMSO as soon afterwards as can be arranged.'

Imports of chrome

Mr. Peter Horden (Horsham and Crawley) asked for a table showing the value of imports of chrome, either in the form of alloy or unprocessed, each year during the last five years; and details of the countries of origin.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

£'000

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
ORES AND CONCENTRATES OF CHROMIUM					
Total	2,812	854	3,066	3,629	4,214
of which, consigned from:					
South Africa	899	408	1,386	875	1,992
Phillipines	1,674	399	1,514	1,792	1,832
Other countries	239	47	166	962	390
FERRO-CHROME ALLOYS					
Total	9,071	7,058	10,669	18,925	n/a
of which, consigned from:					
Sweden	2,565	2,501	2,989	5,373	n/a
South Africa	821	737	1,388	1,804	n/a
Norway	1,448	935	1,656	1,867	n/a
Soviet Union	686	729	943	2,402	n/a
Japan	61	20	36	1,064	n/a
Other countries	3,490	2,136	3,657	6,145	n/a

Phenolic moulding materials from Italy

Mr. Dudley Smith (Warwick and Leamington) asked if representations would be made to the appropriate European commission agency over complaints from British companies that an Italian Government-subsidised company is exporting plastic material to Great Britain at prices which constitute unfair trading.

Mr. Meacher replied 'An application for action against imports of phenolic moulding materials from Italy has been made by the British Plastics Federation to the competition directorate of the commission who have responsibility for investigating complaints of dumping and subsidisation between member states of the community. The competition directorate have been advised of the importance we attach to this application and the British trade association will be assisted in making further representations to the commission should these prove necessary.'

Wool textile scheme

'What progress is being made in discussions to extend the wool textile scheme?' asked Mr. Max Madden (Sowerby) 'What agreement exists to abandon the 'realisation' aspect of the existing scheme, whereby textile workers have been made redundant and machinery scrapped; and what improvements are proposed in severance pay arrangements?'

'We are considering proposals for a further scheme,' answered Mr. Williams. 'I cannot yet say when an announcement will be made, but a realisation aspect has not been proposed. Severance pay arrangements are a matter for employers and trade unions.'

Industrial development certificates

Dr. Jeremy Bray (Motherwell and Wishaw) asked for information on the number of establishments and the estimated additional employment created in assisted areas and other Department of Industry preferred areas, respectively, resulting from the refusal of industrial development certificates, in each year since 1960, with such divisions into floor space ranges of the idcs as may be available.

'Information of this kind is not collected on a regular basis,' Mr. Williams replied. 'Because firms may take several months, if not years, to consider and implement alternative development proposals, the effects of industrial development certificate refusals cannot be assessed until well after the event. The latest information comes from a study of over 1,300 refusals in the period 1958-71. This study indicates that 18 per cent of the developments concerned, accounting for 27 per cent of the total floor space refused,

eventually located in areas preferred by the department – 16 per cent in the assisted areas and 11 per cent in other preferred locations.'

Spare parts for public service vehicles

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry 'is aware of difficulties that have arisen for passenger transport executives because of problems in obtaining spare parts for public service vehicles, and what action he will take to alleviate these difficulties?'

'I understand that the availability of bus spare parts from British Leyland has improved very considerably over recent months,' said Mr. Huckfield.

Shipbuilding industry

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked: 'What is the division of the British shipbuilding capacity between (a) Harland and Wolff (b) the companies to be nationalised as part of British Shipbuilders and (c) the companies not to be taken into public ownership?'

'There is no statistical measure of capacity,' replied Mr. Huckfield. 'The only information available relates to output. During 1974 and 1975 total completions of merchant ships in the categories specified were as follows:

	Gross tons
1 Harland and Wolff Ltd.	502,829
2 The merchant shipbuilders who will become subsidiaries of British Shipbuilders	1,832,266
3 The shipbuilders not to be taken into public ownership	57,749

'The completion figures for Harland and Wolff reflect the specialised nature of the company's output which consists of large ships,' said Mr. Huckfield.

Organising Committee for British Shipbuilders

Mr. William Small (Glasgow, Garscadden) asked about further appointments to the Organising Committee for British Shipbuilders.

Mr. Varley answered that the following had accepted his invitation to serve as members of the Organising Committee for British Shipbuilders:

Mr. A. R. Belch CBE	Managing director of Scott Lithgow Ltd. and President of the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association.
Mr. J. Chalmers	General secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers, Shipwrights, Blacksmiths and Structural Workers.
Mr. L. Gregory	National officer of the Electrical Electronic Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.
Mr. P. W. Mills	Administration director at Cammel Laird Shipbuilders Ltd.
Mr. G. A. Peers	Director of industrial relations at the Engineering Employers Federation.

Mr. Varley went on: 'Mr. Belch, Mr. Chalmers and Mr. Gregory will be part-time members of the committee. Mr. Mills and Mr. Peers will be full time members and it is my intention to appoint them as full time members of British Shipbuilders when the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill becomes law. I expect to make further appointments in due course.'

Price of potatoes

Mr. Walter Johnson (Derby South) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would, as a matter of urgency, hold an inquiry into the increase in the price of potatoes in order to illustrate where profit has been made.

'I asked the Price Commission on 30 January to report monthly on margins in the distribution of potatoes,' said Mrs. Williams. 'The two reports so far received, which have been placed in the library, found no evidence of excessive profits by distributors. The third report is expected shortly. Some producers have no doubt done well, although most will have had fewer potatoes to sell. Returns from agriculture inevitably fluctuate from crop to crop and from year to year.'

Mr. Johnson also inquired about plans for controlling the price of old and new potatoes.

Mrs. Williams replied that the Government's continued belief was that fixing maximum prices would not be in the consumer's best interests. This would stimulate consumption while making the UK market less attractive to the imports essential to supplement the reduced UK stocks remaining from last season's disappointing crop.

Friday, 7 May

Trade with EEC

Mr. Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked what was the UK balance of trade with her EEC partners for each year since 1970, and for 1976 at an annual rate, in total, in manufactured goods, in cars, and in foodstuffs.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the following information:

CRUDE BALANCES (1) OF TRADE WITH EEC BY COMMODITY GROUP
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£ million

	Total trade	Manufactured goods	Passenger motor cars	Food and live animals
1970	−81	+423	+6	−433
1971	−255	+320	−59	−502
1972	−580	+27	−157	−498
1973	−1,173	−275	−198	−699
1974	−2,209	−643	−160	−1,221
1975	−2,386	−544	−232	−1,474
First quarter 1976 at annual rate	−2,017	−251	−331	−1,320

(1) The crude trade balance is the difference between exports fob and imports cif.

See also last week's Trade and Industry (*page* 377).

Proposed share options exchange

Mr. Keith Stainton (Sudbury and Woodbridge) asked what discussions the Secretary of State for Trade has had with the London Stock Exchange regarding the prospects for the setting up of a London share options exchange along the lines of that operated by Chicago; and if this would assist orderly dealings.

'I am in touch with the Stock Exchange on this subject,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'I understand that the Council of the Stock Exchange has not yet decided whether they wish to establish an options exchange. If they do so, I will have further discussions with them when detailed proposals have been formulated.'

Alfred Herbert Ltd.

Mr. Michael Grylls asked what was the original cost to the Government of the acquisition of shares in Alfred Herbert Ltd.; and if any further public funds have been committed to the company.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The cost to the Government of restructuring Alfred Herbert Ltd., in addition to the injection of some £26.2 million into Herbert Ltd., was £16,348.50 including payment of VAT, which represents the department's share of professional fees. No further public funds have been committed to the company other than through the National Enterprise Board's facility to support building of machine tools for stock on commercial terms as announced in my reply on 2 March to my Hon. Friend the member for Aldridge/Brownhills.'

Concorde

Mr. Jeremy Thorpe (North Devon) asked what would be the cost of the contribution by the British taxpayer to the grounding of and modification to Concorde 201.

'British firms will be supplying at Government expense modification kits to a value of about £200,000,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'I am satisfied that this requirement will not delay delivery of Concordes to British Airways.'

Mr. Thorpe asked about discussions with the the French Government on the forthcoming modification to Concorde 201 in France.

Mr. Kaufman said that discussions on these modifications had taken place on a number of occasions between British and French officials and representatives of the firms concerned.

Have you a good industrial news picture?

Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

BOTB News

Cheaper, more efficient methods for export documents

A major aid to cheaper and more efficient methods of preparing export documents has been devised by Sitpro (the simplification of international trade procedures board). The key to this system is a redesigned master document which can be used to complete the following forms, using ordinary copiers or duplicators:

Standard shipping note (standard UK form)
Export consignment note (suggested design)
Export cargo shipping instructions (suggested design approved by Institute of Freight Forwarders Ltd.)
Bill of lading (standard International Chamber of Shipping form)
Certificate of insurance (standard Lloyds and the Institute of London Underwriters form)
HM Customs entry C 273 series (standard UK forms)
EUR 1 movement certificate (standard EEC form)

The new document will be introduced on 1 March 1977, and there will be a running-in period, during which either old or new forms can be used, leading to full implementation from 4 July 1977.

This master document updates the JCLD (Joint Liaison Committee on Documentation) aligned system of export documentation which was introduced into the UK in 1965. New UK and EEC official requirements have necessitated some re-alignment of that system, and Sitpro undertook the task of revision in consultation with British exporters and other trade and official interests. The system has also been extended to make proper provision for commercial as well as shipping documents.

Export invoices and internal forms can be completed by using the master document and adding a simple flap or 'sub-master', thus avoiding the need to type any information more than once. In order to assist exporters to design suitably aligned export invoices, Sitpro puts forward three alternative recommended designs, all in line with recent United Nations recommendations. A continuation sheet is also included in the revised system.

In common with similar national trade facilitation organisations in other EEC countries, Sitpro is now working on the alignment of the community certificate of origin and T forms.

A handbook on the revised aligned system will be published by Sitpro in October, and a nationwide programme of open meetings for exporters to help them prepare for the introduction of the new documents will begin in the autumn.

Sitpro will welcome inquiries from any exporter or freight forwarder interested in the possibilities of aligned systems, and pamphlets describing how to evaluate and install such systems are available free of charge from Sitpro, 11/13 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AU, while stocks last.

Visit of Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Korea

Nam Duck Woo, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, will be visiting Britain from 19 to 23 May at the invitation of the Government. Within the South Korean Government Mr. Nam has particular responsibilities for finance and trade, and his official engagements include discussions with senior British ministers.

Mr. Nam is anxious to meet British industrialists and bankers during his stay in London. He will be addressing a seminar of British businessmen at the Confederation of British Industries on the morning of 20 May, an event organised by the Korea Trade Advisory Group and the UK/Korea Economic Co-operation Group. Information about the seminar is available from Miss B. V. Orders at the CBI (01-930 6711).

Trading links between Korea and the UK have been growing substantially in recent years. Figures for the first quarter of 1976 show imports from Korea at £24.1 million and exports to Korea as £19.9 million; which compare with figures for the same period in 1975 of £15.8 million and £9.6 million. respectively.

New appointment to European Trade Committee

Leonard Deeds of Marks and Spencer Ltd. has accepted the invitation of Sir Derek Ezra to join the European Trade Committee of the British Overseas Trade Board.

Seminar for jewellery exporters

An export seminar which will be of interest to companies who are already exporting and also for companies who wish to export, in the jewellery and giftware trades will be held at the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce on 22 June.

Speakers will include representatives of the industries, of the British Overseas Trade Board, the Central Office of Information and the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Further details will be available shortly. In the meantime, those interested should contact John McConnell at the British Jewellery and Giftware Federation Ltd., Saint Dunstan House, Carey Lane, London EC2V 8AA, tel. 01-606 0871.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Economic Trends Annual Supplement

The monthly *Economic Trends* is well known. Now the Central Statistical Office has published for the first time an *Annual Supplement* which provides a unique source for long runs of quarterly and annual data for the key series of economic indicators.

Some 300 series are included, rebased to give continuous runs for as far back as possible in the post-war period. About half span 25 years or more.

The *Annual Supplement* comes as part of the annual subscription to *Economic Trends*, (£21.85 including postage) or can be purchased separately, price £1.15 (by post £1.43)

Post orders to HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH or the Government Bookshops in Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol (see local Yellow Pages under Bookseller section for addresses of Bookshops and HMSO official agents)

Please send your orders to Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PM2L (ZT9), Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1BN
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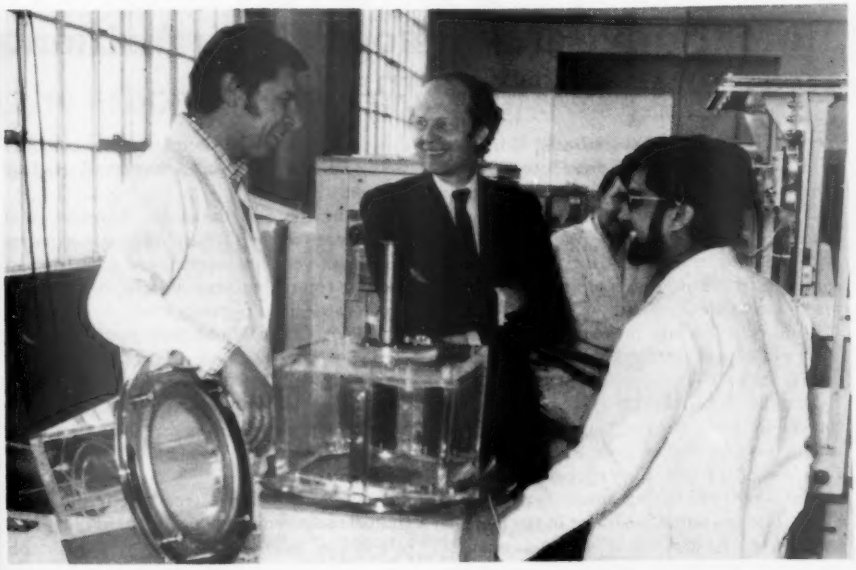
See Yellow Pages for your nearest stockist of Government publications.

BOTB members visit successful exporters in west London



BOTB members visited successful exporting firms in the west London area on 4 May before attending BOTB's export conference the following day. Left : Lord Limerick (left) and Sir Jan Lewando (centre) inspect a diesel generating machine being assembled at Auto Diesels Braby Ltd. of Uxbridge, with Mike Ridout, managing director. Above : Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of BOTB, talking to company personnel at EMI Medical Ltd., Hayes, whose outstanding success with the brain and body scanner has resulted in their being awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1976.

FOCUS RESEARCH SEMINAR

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LONDON
FRIDAY 21 MAY 1976

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ENCIRCLE TI 18 ON PAGE 455 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ENCIRCLE TI 20 ON PAGE 455 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Exhibitions and Fairs

Remarkable success of British fashion producers in restrained German market

From H. C. von Massenbach, Commercial Section, British Consulate-General, Duesseldorf: The British fashion industry was once again represented at the 109th Duesseldorf IGEDO – international fashion fair – which ran from 25-29 April. This time some 19 British producers of fashion garments and accessories, many of them regular exhibitors to this fair, presented their autumn and winter collections to the trade, whose buyers came from all parts of Europe.

Despite the heavy attendance of trade buyers in the first few days and the final attendance record of near 34,000 buyers at the close of the fair, the expectations of most of the 1,600 exhibiting firms were not fulfilled. The continued restraint of the German trade in particular was a disappointment to the many exhibitors who had hoped that the current upward trend in the economy would reflect itself in an improved trading climate.

All the more remarkable, therefore, was the success of the British fashion producers who, with very few exceptions, succeeded in booking record business, a high proportion of which came from German trade. Many of the regular exhibitors could hardly recall a more successful showing, and even the newcomers more than fulfilled their expectations despite the absence of any apparent special trade interest in the British exhibits. But once on the stands, buyers seldom left without having placed an order.

They immediately recognised the now almost unchallengeable prices and design and production talents of many of the British producers. Certainly the exhibitors all came away greatly encouraged by the results of this fair and with much increased determination further to intensify their export sales promotional activities in order to exploit their now enhanced trading potential, not least in the German market.

Many of the 16 British fashion producers, who exhibited under the joint venture scheme through the sponsorship of BOTB and the Clothing Export Council, voiced the hope that more British fashion producers will participate at future German international fashion fairs. Recognising the existing trading potential, a much wider and stronger representation of the industry is required so that the fast-growing market potential can be fully exploited. The 110th IGEDO is scheduled to run from 12-15 September this year.

Tool and manufacturing exposition returns to Cleveland

From Brian N. C. Beevers, Vice Consul (Commercial), Cleveland, Ohio: After an 11-year absence, the International Tool and Manufacturing Exposition returned to Cleveland, Ohio, from 26-29 April, and proved to be a resounding success. Over 18,000 managers and engineers attended the show at the Cleveland Convention Center, and their enthusiasm has encouraged the organisers to schedule the 1980 exposition in Cleveland.

The show, sponsored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, attracted more than 350 exhibitors representing more than 500 companies, and exhibits covered the complete range of products used in the metalworking industry. Located on eye-catching stands, and ideally situated to benefit from the traffic flow of visitors, were the eight stands of the British firms who participated in a joint venture sponsored by the BOTB and the Machine Tool Trades Association.

With US industry preparing to convert to metric measurement, Dunlop received enormous interest in their machine tool metric conversion service and dial attachment. The company feel there is a vast potential for their experience, and were more than satisfied with the number and quality of inquiries received.

Jones and Shipman, who are already active in the US, exhibited three grinding machines on their stand, sold them all during the show, and also received many serious inquiries.

Approaching the US for the first time, Phillips and Roberts, who were seeking a licensee for their self-accumulating conveyor system, exhibited a working model and reported an excellent response. On the next stand, SSI Fix Equipment had an attractive display of their metric modular systems for storage and materials handling. The company reported that the Cleveland show was the best they had ever attended in North America.

Brockhouse Export, exhibiting their Chatwin gear hobs and cutters, and unique polygon box for turning multi-sided or irregular shapes from bar material, received many inquiries with excellent potential.

Goliath Threading Tools and Prodan (T and C) Ltd., who were both exhibiting their range of tools, reported a successful show, and Rank Taylor Hobson, who exhibited through their US subsidiary, received enough inquiries to keep their US salesmen busy for a long time.

Six other British firms had their products exhibited on the stands of their US agents, and it is hoped a large British presence will be evident in 1980.

Seminar on Brazil's second development plan

The Economic Affairs Committee of Canning House, which is the area advisory group for Latin America to the BOTB, is arranging a business seminar on Brazil to examine the opportunities arising from the second development plan. It will take place at the London Hilton Hotel on Monday, 21 June.

The principal speaker will be Professor Joao Paulo dos Reis Velloso, Minister of State, head of the Secretariat for Planning. The conference will also be addressed by Roberto de Oliveria Campos, the Brazilian ambassador in London, Dr. Marcos Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, president of the Peixoto de Castro Group, Thomas Pompeu de Souza, president of Confederacao Nacional da Industria (CNI) and by Peter Macadam, chairman of the British American Tobacco Co. Ltd.

There will be 12 discussion groups led by panels of Brazilian and British businessmen with a thorough knowledge of the subjects under discussion. The discussion groups will take place in four separate rooms in three discussion periods.

Full details of the seminar, including the programme and application form, are contained in a brochure available from the Economic Affairs Committee, Canning House, 2 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PJ, tel. 01-235 2303, ext. 25.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

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ENCIRCLE TI 16 ON PAGE 455 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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ENCIRCLE TI 19 ON PAGE 455 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Missions and Tours

Japan: industry to industry talks should lead to increased British exports

By G. C. Nichols, chairman of BOTB's Japan trade advisory group, who participated as a member of the CBI mission to Japan (27-28 April) led by Sir Ralph Bateman

In my BOTB capacity I was encouraged by the recent meetings between the CBI and their Japanese counterpart, the Keidanren. We met for six hours, and as the communiqué printed below indicates, the discussions really were 'full, frank and friendly'.

I believe the Japanese industrialists were impressed by the growing evidence of Britain's economic recovery and I hope persuaded that one way of rectifying the trade imbalance between the two countries was to increase the import of goods from Britain, thus lending their weight to the very impressive efforts of British industry and Government in the on-going Tokyo trade drive.

Japanese exports have revived and I am now looking for the revival of consumer demand and investment in Japan, without which Japanese import volumes are bound to remain modest. The message for British exporters is: this is a good time to get into or enlarge your activities in the Japanese market.

Tokyo meeting greatly improves understanding

The fourth Japanese-British businessmen's conference held in Tokyo on 27-28 April was attended by representatives of the Keidanren (federation of economic organisations, Japan) and the CBI and led by the presidents of each organisation, Toshiwo Doko and Sir Ralph Bateman. The following is an extract from the joint communiqué:

'A full, frank and friendly exchange of views took place on matters of common interest, including the state of the national economies of the two countries, bilateral trade and the need to take action to correct the present imbalance by improving Britain's trade with Japan, Anglo-Japanese co-operation in third countries, and the longer-term prospects for industry in both Japan and Britain. The discussions greatly improved mutual understanding and contributed to an appreciation of the problems which both countries are now facing.

'During the conference Sir Ralph Bateman, president of the Confederation of British Industry, gave an address on the subject of "changes in the political and social environment in the United Kingdom and their impact on British business" which was followed by a discussion.

'At the conclusion of the conference, the delegates agreed that the following proposals should be developed and implemented:

1 That in order to maintain the interest and momentum that has been created by constructive and personal contact between the Keidanren and the CBI, a further conference should be held in London, if possible not later than 30 November 1976.
2 That in the meantime the CBI and the Keidanren should step up the exchange of information between them

By the establishment of personal telex contact at staff level.
By more frequent and regular meetings at staff and specialist level, and
By the systematic exchange of policy papers and other material which will help to cement this vital link between two great industrial organisations.'

OTAR helps exporters to EEC

If you export to EEC countries OTAR handouts on the following subjects may interest you:

Circulation certificates
Documentation – transit certificates
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Temporary suspensions of duty
Preferential trading arrangements between third countries and the Community
Labelling of products

Copies of these and other handouts can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Trade's OTAR section. OTAR helps exporters needing information about the tariff and other requirements of all overseas countries.

Telephone or write to:

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR)
Export Services and Promotions Division

Department of Trade
Export House
50 Ludgate Hill
London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 408/439/482
(EEC general inquiries)

Opportunities in Japan: market reports

Three reports on opportunities in the Japanese market for British manufacturers of lighting fixtures, food and drink processing machinery and industrial security and safety equipment were published by the BOTB on 10 May.

Lighting fixtures

The first report – 'The Japanese Market for Lighting Fixtures' – surveys the market for imported lighting fixtures in Japan and gives special emphasis to the study of imported incandescent lighting fixtures; this type of fitting is becoming increasingly popular with high income consumers.

Food and drink processing

'The Japanese Market for Food and Drink Processing Machinery' surveys the principal segments of the food and drink processing industry. They are flour mills and bread making machinery, milk and dairy product processing machinery, meat processing and drink processing machinery. The most rapidly growing of these segments have been the bread making and drink processing machinery.

Industrial security and safety

'The Japanese Market for Industrial Security and Safety Equipment' shows that the market for industrial safety and security equipment will present different kinds of opportunities to domestic and foreign manufacturers in the next few years. This is especially due to the recent revision of the Fire Service Act which will generate a doubling of the market for fire prevention equipment over the next four years.

The reports were prepared for the BOTB by International Business Information Inc., Tokyo. They are available to British manufacturers, price £5 each post free, from the Central Library, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

European Community News

Commission authorises Italy's exchange deposit scheme

From 6 May 1976, the Italian Government – with the authorisation of the EEC commission – introduced an exchange deposit scheme in an attempt to bring under control the deteriorating position of the lira.

Under the scheme, importers and others dealing in foreign exchange are required to place deposits equal to 50 per cent of the value of the transaction in a non-interest-bearing account with the Bank of Italy for a period of 90 days.

The scheme applies not only to imports, where the only exception is wheat, but to virtually all foreign currency transactions. The main specific exceptions are transactions of agent banks and companies with specially authorised accounts, like airlines and insurance companies.

The commission gave their authorisation in the face of Italy's continuing monetary haemorrhage. Without strong measures a further rapid, and possibly uncontrollable, decline could have followed, bringing Italy into a vicious circle of inflation and devaluation. The authorisation was given on the basis of Article 108 Clause 3 of the Treaty of Rome which enables member states in serious balance of payments difficulties to take emergency protection measures to improve their position.

The authorisation will expire on 5 August this year and the Italian Government has stated that the scheme is due to last for only three months.

Roy Hattersley calls for quick move ahead on CFP

Raising the question of the common fisheries policy at the meeting of EEC foreign ministers on 3-4 May, Britain's representative Roy Hattersley called for a quick move ahead in the community's detailed work on each aspect of the problem. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs made a statement on this and other items on the council agenda in the House of Commons on 6 May.

In pressing the need for urgent action on the common fisheries policy, Mr. Hattersley explained that he had referred to the nature and extent of the exclusive coastal belt which the UK required and he said that the CFP would be discussed in more detail before the next council in the committee of permanent representatives.

He pointed out in his statement that the council had been preceded by a meeting of foreign ministers in the political consultation framework. The discussion had included a number of foreign policy matters, including the Euro-Arab dialogue and southern Africa.

There were two institutional questions on the council agenda – the Tindemans report and direct elections to the European parliament, which had been discussed previously by the nine heads of government at the European council meeting in April. Mr. Hattersley said that the discussion would be continued by foreign ministers when they meet informally in Luxembourg at the end of this week (14-15 May).

The discussion on direct elections had concentrated on the number and distribution of seats in a directly-elected parliament. This, he said, had been useful in further clarifying the different positions of the various member states, but had not led to any conclusions. On the Tindemans report, ministers agreed to hold over the substantive discussion until this week's meeting.

Referring to the commission's proposal that the dates of summer-time should be harmonised within the community, Mr. Hattersley explained that this would have involved a curtailment of UK summer-time, particularly at the end. And, although the proposal was supported by most other member states, agreement was not possible on this basis.

On the community's external financial commitments, the ministers had reached agreement on the total aid offer which the community will make to a group of Mediterranean countries. Mr. Hattersley said that the 800 million units of account which the governors of the European Investment Bank had set aside for the community's external lending would be supplemented by 450 mua, to be provided by member states as aid elements in the relevant financial protocols.

He pointed out that the distribution of these sums between the various potential recipients had not yet been agreed, except in the case of Portugal. Portugal's share would be 200 mua in EIB loans and 30 mua in aid elements, which would be used to subsidise the interest on the EIB loans.

The Secretary of State for Trade, Edmund Dell, had represented the UK in the discussion of community strategy on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad IV). Mr. Hattersley said that the community's position on a broad range of items for discussion at the conference had been agreed. A few points remained outstanding and would be discussed by community delegates in Nairobi.

Finally, Mr. Hattersley told the House that the EEC/Cyprus association council had met in Brussels immediately after the foreign affairs council.

Challenge of EEC textile market – Alan Williams

Britain has the second biggest textile industry in the European community – yet this country has less than 10 per cent of the textile trade that takes place between the member countries.

This, said Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, on 5 May, must be a matter of great concern for the industry. 'Last year the community had a domestic market of about £24 billion for clothing and footwear. This is an opportunity and a challenge which our industry cannot overlook.'

Speaking at the clothing institute forum in London, he said: 'Our failure to grab a larger share of this enormous market emphasises the need for support from the industry for the £20 million scheme for the clothing industry which was announced six months ago. The Government funds are there to help the industry restructure and rationalise its production. It is intended to help improve productivity and efficiency. So far we have had an encouraging response from the industry but with the upturn in the world market coming it is imperative that our industry be made as competitive as possible.

'We cannot,' he continued, 'exclude from our joint efforts to help the industry, the clear need to improve the quality of management. I am glad the training board is helping the industry in this respect.

'I can only applaud the efforts of the clothing industry which have led to the establishment of your new technical and demonstration centre. In the type of modernisation and restructuring which I have been talking about the work of a centre providing up-to-date information on machinery and equipment offering a focal point for management to assess new technological developments and stimulating the development of new and improving techniques is an invaluable addition to the services and resources available to the industry.'

UK urges community to take stock of manpower measures

John Grant, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Employment, represented the UK at the social affairs council in Luxembourg on 30 April.

At the request of the UK the agenda included an exchange of views on the employment situation in the community as part of the preparation for the forthcoming tripartite conference between EEC social affairs and finance ministers, the commission and both sides of industry.

Pointing out that it would have been inappropriate for the social council to have met without making a contribution to this discussion, Mr. Grant said that it was important now for the community to take stock of the manpower measures taken by the member states in order to assess their effects. A comparative assessment could well indicate possibilities for joint action, and he suggested that broad indications of this might even be ready in time for the tripartite conference, the date of which has yet to be finalised.

Also on the agenda was the ILO world employment conference to be held in June. Mr. Grant said that he hoped a community position would stress the need to work for a genuine consensus between developing and developed nations and would take up a positive attitude to their problems.

Unemployment problems in the community were insignificant compared to those experienced by the third world, Mr. Grant continued, but, nevertheless developing countries must recognise the problems faced by developing nations.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Regulation (EEC) 1020/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 557/76 as regards the exchange rate to be applied to the Italian lira in agriculture (*Official Journal* L115, 1 May 1976).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 954/76 laying down detailed rules for the granting of private storage aid for long-keeping cheeses during the 1976/77 milk year (*Official Journal* L110, 28 April 1976).

Products of the flower-growing industry. Regulation (EEC) 983/76 fixing the minimum prices for exports to third countries of corms, bulbs and tubers of begonias, dahlias, gladioli and sinningias (*Official Journal* L113, 30 April 1976).

Fish and fish products. Regulation (EEC) 986/76 laying down protective measures applicable to imports of certain fishery products (*Official Journal* L113, 30 April 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 1019/76 suspending imports of fresh or chilled cod (*Official Journal* L115, 1 May 1976).

Pigs and pigmeat. Regulation (EEC) 1017/76 on a special detailed rule for the application, for the United Kingdom, of accession compensatory amounts to prevent deflections of trade in the pigmeat sector (*Official Journal* L115, 1 May 1976).

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 1018/76 amending Regulations (EEC) 1896/73 and (EEC) 582/76 as regards the products which may be bought into intervention in Germany and in the United Kingdom and the coefficients for Belgium in the beef sector (*Official Journal* L115, 1 May 1976).

Fruit and vegetables. Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L113, 30 April 1976, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 847/76 amending the common quality standards for table grapes (published in *Official Journal* L96, 10 April 1976):

Page 32, first line of heading:
for: '547/76',
read: '847/76'.

EEC/Hong Kong agreement

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L108, 26 April 1976, contains the texts of:

1 Regulation (EEC) 903/76 concluding the agreement between the European economic community and Hong Kong on trade in textile products;
2 Agreement between the European economic community and Hong Kong on trade in textile products; and
3 Protocol to the agreement between the European economic community and Hong Kong on trade in textile products.

Strategies for industry: European conference

For the first time, the European cultural foundation has joined the CBI and the administrative staff college in sponsoring a European conference on strategies for industry – corporate strategy and public policy– at the Cavendish Conference Centre, Duchess Mews, London, on 25-26 May.

The conference aims to provide a forum where senior managers from private and public enterprises, executives from financial institutions senior public servants and trade union officials from various parts of Europe will have an opportunity to discuss strategies and plans for the development of industry during the next five to 10 years.

The sessions will be chaired by Lord Drumalbyn and Sir Ronald McIntosh, director general of the National Economic Development Office. Speakers will include Anthony Rawlinson, Deputy Secretary at the Department of Industry, George Wedell of the directorate-general for social affairs at the EEC Commission, and Edmund Stillman, president and director of studies, Hudson Research Europe Ltd.

Inquiries should be addressed to Mrs. Pamela Stratford, The Administrative Staff College, Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 3AU, tel. Hambleden (Bucks) 454.

Harmonisation of legislation

Colouring matters in foodstuffs. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L108, 26 April 1976, contains the text of Directive 76/399/EEC on the approximation of the rules of the member states concerning the colouring matters authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.
Further information. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Food Standards Division, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE, tel. 01-216 6170.

Temporary suspension of import duties

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L113, 30 April 1976, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 1301/75 temporarily suspending the autonomous duties in the common customs tariff on certain industrial products (published in *Official Journal* L133, 24 May 1975):

Page 6, Annex, Table II:
for: 'ex 29.14 A VII Diethyl triethylene glycol butyrate',
read: 'ex 29.14 A XI 2,2'-Ethylenedioxydiethyl bis-(2-ethylbutyrate) (trigol bis-(2-ethylbuty-rate))'.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

EEC harmonisation of provisions for outward processing relief

As reported in *Trade and Industry* of 20 January 1976 a council directive providing for 'the harmonisation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of outward processing' was adopted by the council of the European economic community on 18 December 1975.*

'Outward processing' is the term used to describe the temporary exportation of goods or products with a view to their subsequent re-importation after processing, working or repair. The directive provides for a system of relief from import duty on the returned goods (known as compensating products) to avoid taxation on the temporarily exported materials, without prejudice to the application of any restrictions on imports or exports which may exist for reasons of commercial policy.

The Department of Trade is considering, in consultation with the Customs and Excise department, the arrangements to be made to implement the directive so as to give relief from import duty and it is expected that regulations on this subject will be laid before Parliament in the near future. It is intended that these new arrangements will enter into force on 28 June 1976.

At present outward processing relief is permitted in the United Kingdom in very limited circumstances by Section 8 of the Import Duties Act 1958. There are some fundamental differences between the limited provisions of Section 8 and the provisions of the council directive. For example, the present condition that the process must not change the form or character of the temporarily exported goods or increase the duty rating will no longer apply.

The main provisions of the council directive are as follows:

1 Duty relief will be conditional on authorisation by the competent authorities of the member states. Applications for authorisation must be made before the goods are exported for processing and authorisation may be refused if it is considered that the interests of community processors would be damaged.

2 The authorisation will specify the circumstances and conditions under which outward processing shall take place and may provide for the compensating products to be returned to a member state other than the member state of exportation.

3 Goods held in the community under the inward processing arrangements provided for in council Directive 69/73 EEC will be eligible for inclusion in the scheme but any inward processing relief already granted will have to be given up if outward processing relief is ultimately obtained.

4 The amount of relief will be determined by deducting from the import duty chargeable on the imported products a notional calculation of the import duty, if any, that would be chargeable on the temporarily exported goods contained in these products if they were being imported from the country in which outward processing takes place. Where the imported products qualify for preferential tariff treatment the notional amount of import duty used for determining the amount of relief will be calculated as if the temporarily exported goods had also qualified.

The EEC commission is currently considering what special provisions may be necessary in respect of certain textile manufactures, falling within Chapters 51 to 62 of the tariff, when they are processed in certain third countries.

A Customs and Excise notice describing the new scheme is in course of preparation and a further announcement will be made when this is available. In the meantime, inquiries can be made to HM Customs and Excise, International Customs, Branch 1, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2174.

* Council Directive 76/119 – *Official Journal* Vol. 19, No. L24, 30 January 1976, page 58.

Suspension of import duties on new potatoes

Under the Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (No. 9) Order, which entered into force on 5 May 1976, customs duties on new potatoes (tariff heading 07.01 A11) imported from outside the European economic community are suspended up to and including 20 May 1976. The order will be published as Statutory Instrument 1976 No. 674.

More on the EEC

Information on EEC matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of 'Trade and Industry'. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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West Germany orders British oscilloscopes

Part of an order for 500 oscilloscopes received by Gould Advance Ltd. of Hainault, Essex, from West Germany. The oscilloscopes, which are based on the OS240 dual trace 10MHz instrument, are being tested before delivery during the next few months.

EEC - your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The unit helps businessmen by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Departments of Industry, Trade, Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other Government departments.

Contact the unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Sending goods to an overseas fair

Q. I wish to send some goods temporarily to an exhibition in Milan. Do I need to comply with the full community transit system, or is there a simpler form of documentation?

A. An international customs temporary importation document – called an ATA carnet – can be used for the following goods:

1 Exhibits for international trade fairs abroad
2 Commercial samples
3 Professional equipment

Carnets may be issued for goods temporarily exported from the UK to all the other member states of the EEC. They may also be issued for goods sent to Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain (not professional equipment), Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA (not exhibitions) and Yugoslavia. It is hoped that Iran and South Africa will join the scheme during 1976.

Under this procedure a deposit of a percentage of the total value of the goods, or a guarantee for the amount of the deposit, must first be lodged with the issuing chamber of commerce. HM Customs has approved the London Chamber of Commerce as the guaranteeing body for carnets issued by the following chambers of commerce: Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Northern Ireland, Port of Portsmouth and Southampton.

The standard carnet fee is £17.00 reduced to £11.00 for members of any chamber affiliated to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

Details of the facility are explained in a pamphlet 'ATA Carnets: an International Customs Facilitation Scheme' published by the London Chamber of Commerce, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, tel. 01-248 4444.

Information certificates

Q. I supply a firm in West Germany with components which are used to make equipment subsequently sold to Sweden and other Efta countries and I have been asked to send an information certificate. Why is this necessary and what should I do?

A. Your customer needs to establish that the goods he is exporting satisfy the conditions for preferential treatment under the terms of the appropriate EEC-Efta free trade agreement which will allow the goods to benefit from a reduced rate of import duty (see Customs notice 810). The components you supply may well be in free circulation, but for the purposes of the agreement your customer needs to know whether or not the components have already achieved originating status or details of the work done on them.

You should complete two copies of Customs form C.1243 and present them to HM Customs at an office of departure for endorsement. One copy will be returned to you to send to your customer and the other will be retained by HM Customs. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Customs notice 821 give guidance on information certificates.

The same EEC regulation which provided for the information certificate allows evidence of origin to be passed within the EEC by means of a declaration on the commercial invoice and, unless a particular member state specifically demands an information certificate, an invoice declaration is recommended for simplicity. The text of this declaration is also given in notice 821. Your declaration should contain one of two alternative statements concerning the origin of the goods. Statement (a) should be completed if your goods originate within the terms of the EEC-Efta free trade agreements. For all other goods, statement (b) should be completed, giving details of the description, the country of origin, the value if requested, and the processing of each material used in the manufacture of your goods. The declaration must be signed and dated by you or your authorised representative and the place of signature stated. Customs endorsement is not required and the declaration can be sent direct to your customer.

Copies of notices 810 and 821 and Customs form C.1243, may be obtained from any collector of Customs and Excise or from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 3079/2069.

EEC information

Free service for businessmen!
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.
Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Calls for public tender

Q. I understand that calls for tender by public undertakings in the EEC must be publicised in all member states. Could you please tell me where they are published?

A. Under the provisions of EEC Directives 71/305 and 72/277, public undertakings in EEC countries are required to publish calls for tender for public works contracts of an estimated value of not less than one million units of account (£415,000).

Calls for tender are published in the 'C' series of the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. The *Official Journal* is available from HMSO at an annual subscription of £33.00.

The Department of Trade's Export Intelligence Service extracts details of calls for tender published in the *Official Journal* for circulation to interested subscribers. Details of this service may be obtained from Room J05, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 430 or 556; the nearest regional office of the Department of Industry; the Scottish Economic Planning Department, 314 St Vincent St., Glasgow G3 8XF, tel. 041-248 2855; or the Industry Department, Welsh Office, Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL, tel. 0222 62131.

More information about EEC legislation on public works contracts is published in the Department of the Environment circular 59/73 (HMSO price 21p). This circular also contains the texts of Directives 71/305 and 72/277.

Advice on the application of the directive to individual cases can be obtained from the Directorate of Contracts (CON 1), Department of the Environment (Property Services Agency), 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, tel. 01-212 4829.

Gilberts Coombe viaduct on the Camborne and Scorrier bypass in Cornwall, 176m long and 22m high. The contract for this motorway was 'let' in March 1973, four months before it became compulsory for this kind of public works contract to be advertised in the *Official Journal*.

Products under surveillance

Q. I have been told that certain products I wish to import are subject to community surveillance and that a licence is required. What does surveillance mean and how can I get a licence?

A. Where imports from certain non-EEC countries threaten to cause injury to community manufacturers of similar or directly competing products, or where the interests of the community require it, products may be made subject to surveillance by the community. Products under surveillance may enter into free circulation in the community only on production of a surveillance document (import licence) as required under EEC regulation 1439/74. Member states submit information obtained from these documents to the commission, and the commission can then extend or rescind the surveillance or, if necessary, impose quantitative restrictions to protect community producers.

The licences are normally valid only for a three-month period. Individual import licences required for surveillance (ask for application form ILB/A) and details of goods currently under surveillance can be obtained from Import Licensing Branch, General Division, Department of Trade, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH, tel. 01-603 4644.

Economic Trends

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HMSO BOOKS

Trade Information

Britain's contribution to commodity agreements: Edmund Dell's speech to Unctad IV

The UK contribution to world commodity agreements was emphasised by Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, in a speech to Unctad IV in Nairobi on 6 May.

He stressed that Britain had signed the three new commodity agreements on tin, coffee and cocoa and would do what it could to encourage the fullest possible participation in them. He indicated British willingness to make a contribution to the financing of the tin buffer stock.

He pointed out, however, that 'it is impossible to lay down a single set of rules or arrangements that can apply to all commodities. Each one is different – not only in its inherent characteristics – but because different people are concerned in different countries: as producers, as consumers, in the private sector and in government.

'We must not therefore envisage action as being in any sense confined to traditional commodity agreements – nor should we place undue emphasis on any one mechanism, such as buffer stocks. A wide range of measures needs to be considered in relation to the problems of each commodity and the right mix can best be found in direct discussions between experts from producers and consumers.

'I know that many people fear that this case-by-case approach will prove inadequate and that is why they seek a prior commitment to an integrated programme here and now. My Government has made it clear that we do favour a comprehensive approach. That was the purpose of Sir Harold Wilson's proposals a year ago. But the implementation must – for the reason I have given – be undertaken commodity-by-commodity.

'I hope that this conference can give more concrete shape to a programme of work and follow-up arrangements within an agreed timetable.'

On proposals for a Common Fund, Mr. Dell said:

'The Common Fund is one approach but it is not the only one. The international institutions such as the IMF and IBRD have a role to play and so does the private banking system. We must discuss all these possibilities together and see how they match up to the financing required.

'We believe that it is very difficult to identify the scale or nature of the financing needed in advance of the detailed negotiation on individual commodities. Financing, like other aspects, needs to be considered commodity-by-commodity.'

Aid and the debt question

Mr. Dell stressed that Britain was planning to increase its expenditure on aid in real terms from £441 million in 1976-77 to £516 million in 1979-80.

The basic strategy of the aid programme was to give increasing emphasis to the poorest countries. The UK hoped that Unctad would urge all aid donors to adopt a specific international target for aid distribution to the poorest countries.

On the problem of the increased indebtedness and debt servicing of some developing countries, Mr. Dell commented:

'There are many different situations and therefore debt problems also need to be treated on a case-by-case, country-by-country, basis. Proposals for generalised solutions of debt relief might themselves erode that confidence which lies at the basis of international creditworthiness, and damage the very interests which we are seeking to protect. This is especially the case in relation to commercial debt where the structure is based on confidence, and where private rather than purely governmental interests are involved.'

The transfer of technology

Mr. Dell also spoke of the need to promote and accelerate the transfer of technology to the developing countries. This was primarily a role for the private sector; and here industrial joint ventures were an important vehicle.

President of Brazil's visit: more industrial co-operation

In parallel with the State visit to Britain of the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Senhora Giesel last week, official discussions took place between HM Ministers and Ministers of President Geisel's Government. These discussions were within the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding between the British and Brazilian Governments, under which consultations take place regularly on questions of common interest.

On economic matters the discussions enabled the members of both governments to exchange views on questions of interest to both countries, including recent international developments. Reference was made to the progress in the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, and to the importance of the Unctad meeting in Nairobi. Areas of bilateral economic co-operation were discussed against the background of each country already being a substantial supplier to the markets of the other and to specific development requirements in respect of Brazil.

The two sides, while expressing their satisfaction with the present trend in trade between the two countries, took the view that a further expansion of their trade would be beneficial to both. The requirements of Brazil for access for Brazilian products to British markets were acknowledged, as was the value to Britain of Brazil as a supplier of goods and commodities.

In the course of discussions on the subject of the countervailing charge imposed by the United Kingdom against the import of men's fashion leather footwear from Brazil, it was emphasised that this action was provisional and the sums paid refundable should the case not be substantiated. HMG welcomed the Brazilian proposal that officials from both sides should meet with a view to arriving at an early conclusion to the problem.

President Geisel met a group of leaders from the public and private sectors of industry, who were led by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. Several industrialists indicated their desire to increase their investment in Brazil, particularly in the fields of steel, engineering goods, petrochemicals, fertilisers, bauxite and aluminium. The President also had discussions with a group of leading British bankers, led by the Governor of the Bank of England. In separate meetings the Minister of Finance of Brazil and the President of the Central Bank of Brazil outlined Brazil's monetary and financial policies.

Talks were held between the President of Brazil and Sir Monty Finniston, chairman of the British Steel Corporation and John Buckley, chairman of Davy Ashmore International Ltd. on the supply of Brazilian iron ore to Britain and British participation in Brazil's steel development plans, including transfer of technology and equipment supply. These talks were followed by further discussions between the Minister of Finance of Brazil and BSC officials. The Minister of Finance then went to British Rail headquarters for discussion with John Lawrence, deputy chairman of British Rail, and with manufacturers of British railway equipment.

Discussions were successfully concluded and two Memoranda of Understanding signed, with ECGD's approval, agreeing the terms for British involvement in Brazil's steel and rail development plans.

Davy Ashmore International Ltd. and Morgan Grenfell Ltd. will

lead European participation in the construction of a new steel works, known as Acominas, in the State of Minas Gerais, at a cost of £900 million approximately. The value of financing and supply of imported equipment will amount to about £500 million. Orders for British goods and services will be placed to the value of at least £100 million.

An agreement has been signed by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade on behalf of Siderbras, the Brazilian national steel council, and by Baring Brothers and Co. Ltd. for a £50 million line of credit to finance the purchase of British equipment for the Brazilian steel industry.

An agreement on transfer of technology relating to the construction of offshore platforms between the British Steel Corporation (Redpath, Dorman Long Ltd.) and the Brazilian National Steel Co. was ratified during the visit.

The Brazilian Federal Rail Network (RFFSA), GEC Ltd. and N. M. Rothschild, have reached agreement on a package for the supply and financing of equipment and services for the Belo Horizonte-Volta Redona 'steel railway', together with complementary rail links. The total value of the package will be in the region of £100 million. GEC are to have overall supply responsibilities, but several other British firms will be involved as subcontractors.

Lloyds Bank International and Brazil's National Bank for Economic Development (BNDE) have arranged a £20 million line of credit for the purchase in Britain of capital goods and equipment for medium-sized industrial projects in Brazil supported by the BNDE. Contracts under this line of credit are to be placed by May 1978.

Energy

The President met the Secretary of State for Energy for wide-ranging and useful discussion on energy matters. Their discussions included development of Brazilian oil resources. British experience in the North Sea and international energy co-operation, particularly the need for increased effort on energy conservation. They look forward to an increasing contribution by British companies to the development of the Brazilian oil industry through risk sharing contracts and particularly through the application of North Sea experience to the exploitation of Brazil's offshore energy resources. They agreed that a closer relationship between Petrobras and the British National Oil Corporation should be encouraged. The President said that Brazil would be pleased to send a Mission to discuss co-operation with the BNOC.

Future contacts

Ministers hoped that the further development of Anglo-Brazilian relations would cover a wide spectrum of interests. There would be further opportunities to develop contacts in the near future and it was noted that Canning House in association with the British Overseas Trade Board would be holding a seminar on trade between Britain and Brazil on 21 June at which the principal speaker will be the Brazilian Minister for Planning, Sr. Joao Paulo dos Reis Velloso.

Anglo-Soviet joint commission: Edmund Dell heads UK delegation

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, headed the British delegation at the fifth meeting of the Anglo-Soviet joint commission for co-operation in applied science, technology, trade and economic relations, which was held in London from 10-13 May.

The British delegation included Edward Bishop, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Alan Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, Sir Ralph Bateman, president of the CBI, Sir Campbell Adamson, director-general of the CBI, and Lord Kearton, chairman of the East European trade council.

The Soviet delegation to the joint commission was led by Academician Vladimir Kirillin, Deputy Premier and Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, and included Mikhail Kuzmin, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, Mr. M. A. Pertsev, deputy chairman of Gosplan and Academician Vladimir Kotel'nikov, vice-president of the academy of sciences.

The joint commission reviewed progress in implementing the two long-term co-operation programmes, covering economic, industrial scientific and technological subjects, which were signed in Moscow in February 1975 by Sir Harold Wilson and Mr. Kosygin.

The fourth meeting of the joint commission was held in Moscow from 20-22 May 1975. The commission meets annually, alternately in London and Moscow.

The BBC Export Promotion Service

The primary aim of the BBC Export Promotion Service is to report Britain's progress as an industrial and trading nation and thus help to promote a favourable climate for exports. Every day the BBC tells the world about British business, industry, finance, technology, agriculture and science. It reports British achievements, progress and know-how, using the export knowledge of its specialist reporters. Products and manufacturers are named in these industrial broadcasts and inquiries resulting are passed on to manufacturers. The BBC broadcasts overseas in English and 39 other languages. Manufacturers who have an interesting story about British inventions, new products, unusual or striking export achievements, participation in overseas fairs, visits abroad, etc., are invited to contact the BBC. Telephone the Export Liaison Manager, BBC External Services, at 01-240 3456, ext. 2393/2039 or write; Export Liaison Manager, BBC External Services, Bush House, London WC2B 4PH.

Anglo-Bulgarian joint commission meets in Sofia

The Anglo-Bulgarian joint commission held its fourth session in Sofia from 26-30 April, under the joint chairmanship of Mr. Lionel Lightman, Under-Secretary in the Department of Trade, and Mr. Andrei Lukanov, Bulgarian First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade.

The British delegation included representatives from industry as well as officials from the Department of Trade, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the British Embassy, Sofia. The industry representatives were Mr. E. E. Alton (Cadbury-Schweppes Europe Ltd., representing the food processing industries): Mr. T. N. Dufort (Ernest Scragg and Son Ltd. and Chairman of the British Textile Machinery Association): and Mr. E. Green (GKN Contractors Ltd., representing heavy industry and the general engineering sector).

The joint commission reviewed the progress of Anglo-Bulgarian trade during the past year and noted in particular that the Guidelines for the Development of the National Economy of Bulgaria for the period 1976-80 as well as the new Five Year Plan 1976-80 when approved later in the year would open up considerable new possibilities for expanding economic relations between the two countries. It was agreed to exchange information with the view of attracting the interest of British firms in respect of specific projects. The joint commission also noted that general agreements between Bulgarian economic organisations and major United Kingdom companies could assist in promoting stability in trade and economic relations between the two countries while noting that in individual cases the decisions must rest with the commercial organisations concerned and that any such arrangements must offer benefits to both parties if they were to be successful.

The joint commission also took note of recent exchanges between experts of the two countries to discuss the questions of quality control, standardisation and metrology and expressed the hope that these useful exchanges would continue in the future.

The joint commission noted that the scope of industrial co-operation between the two countries had widened and that it now included both new projects and the expansion and modernisation of existing projects. It noted the particular importance of co-operation in the fields of machine building, metallurgy, electronics, the electrical industry and the chemical industry. It also emphasised the important opportunities for co-operation which already existed between United Kingdom and Bulgarian enterprises in agriculture and the food industry: and welcomed the possibilities for co-operation in the development of new and modernisation of existing foundries. It also noted new plans for co-operation in the general areas of the chemical and textile industries and in the automotive sector.

In discussing scientific and technological co-operation, the joint

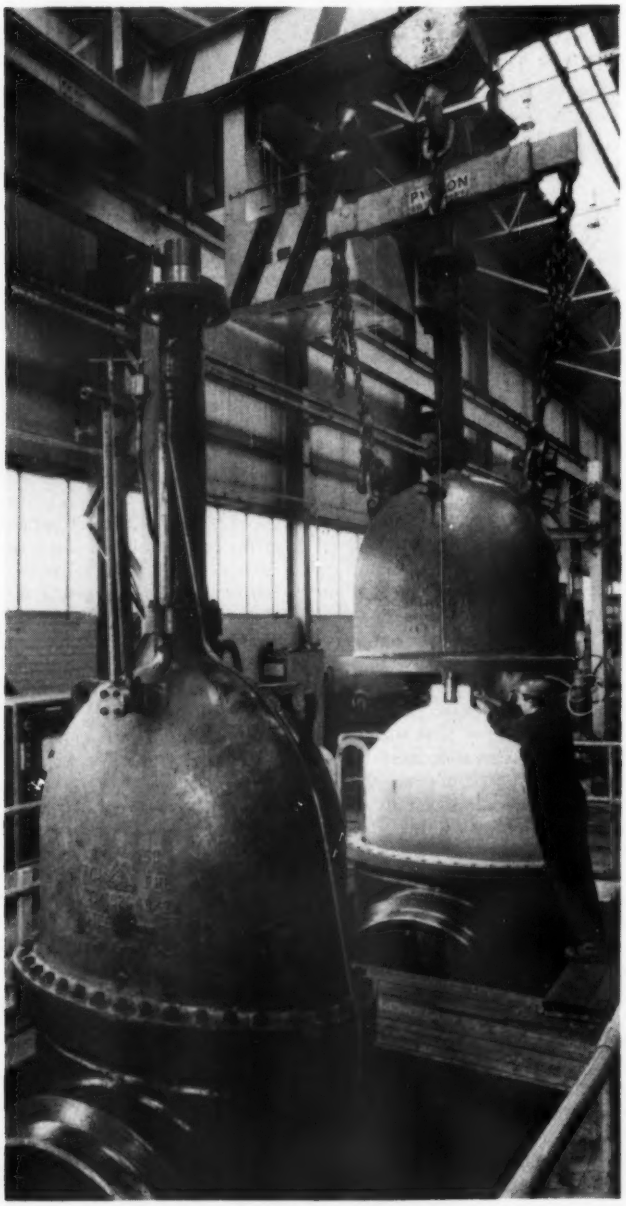
commission expressed the view that this was particularly important in laying the foundations for subsequent industrial co-operation.

During the week of the joint commission, Mr. Lightman had meetings with several representatives of the Bulgarian Government including Mr. I. Nedev, Minister of Foreign Trade: Mr. N. Kalchev, Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations: Mr. Papazov, Chairman of the Committee for Science, Technical Progress and Higher Education: Mr. I. Tonev, First Deputy Minister of Agriculture: Mr. Kisiov, Deputy Minister of Electronics: Mr. N. Christoff, Deputy Minister of Light Industry: and Mr. P. Zibransky, Deputy Minister of Chemical Industry. Where appropriate Mr. Lightman was accompanied at these meetings by one of the industrial members of the British delegation.

The next session of the joint commission, which meets annually alternately in London and Sofia, will take place in London in April 1977.

Steel valves for Trans-Alaska pipeline

Steel valves for the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline under construction at the Wigan, Lancs, works of Triangle Valve Company. These 48-inch valves part of an order for 67, will control the flow of crude oil on its 800-mile journey southwards from the well heads of the Prudhoe Bay field on the Arctic North Slope to the tanker terminal at Valdez on the Gulf of Alaska and will be used in tank farms at the storage terminal.



Anti-dumping investigation on Hexamine from Czechoslovakia

The Department of Trade has accepted for full investigation an application under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 alleging that hexamethylene tetramine (Hexamine) is being imported from Czechoslovakia at prices which constitute dumping and that, as a result, the British industry is suffering material injury.

While this investigation is restricted at present to Czechoslovakia it may be extended to include other countries exporting Hexamine to the UK at prices which appear to be dumped.

A statement of the applicant's claim will be supplied to interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information in strict confidence. Any representations in connection with this application should be submitted in writing not later than 31 May 1976. Such representations, in summarised form and without attribution to the source, may be passed to the applicant for comment. Those making the representations should stipulate any particular matters which they do not wish to be disclosed.

Requests for copies of the statement, together with an undertaking in the terms set out above, should be sent in writing to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 348, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Inquiries: 01-215 5758.

Withdrawal of application for anti-dumping action on acrylic sheet

The Department of Trade announced on 6 February 1976 that it had accepted for investigation an application for the imposition of anti-dumping duties under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 on acrylic sheet imported from the United States of America (see *Trade and Industry*, 6 February, page 390).

The application has been withdrawn and the Department of Trade proposes to take no further action.

In requesting withdrawal of the application, the applicants point to a significant change in the volume and price of the allegedly dumped imports of the material since they applied for anti-dumping action and, in these changed circumstances, they consider the threat of continuing material injury has been considerably reduced.

It is open for the applicants to apply for anti-dumping action should they at any time have fresh evidence that acrylic sheet is being imported at dumped prices and that there is resulting material injury to the industry.

Suspension of anti-dumping duty on zirconium dioxide

The Department of Trade, after reviewing the current market situation, has made an Order suspending for a further period from 24 May 1976 until 30 June 1977 the anti-dumping duty on imports of zirconium dioxide originating in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The duty was imposed from 8 August 1970 by the Anti-Dumping Duty (No. 2) Order 1970.

The new Order, the Anti-Dumping Duty (Temporary Suspension) (No. 2) Order 1976 (SI 1976 No. 697) comes into operation on 24 May 1976. Before the end of the period of suspension the situation will be re-examined.

Copies of the Order will be obtainable from HMSO, 49 High Holborn, London WC1, or by post from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

Foreign diplomatic missions in Nigeria

Since the attempted coup on 13 February, the staff of foreign diplomatic missions have been forbidden by the Federal Military Government to undertake official touring outside the towns in which they are situated (ie Lagos, Ibadan, and Kaduna in the case of British posts). It is not known when this ban will be lifted.

Consequently, there will be delays in dealing with requests for advice on business outside these areas. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3338.

Patent and trade mark laws in Gilbert Islands and Tuvalu

As from 1 January 1976 the Gilbert Islands and Tuvalu (formerly the Ellice Islands) have had separate administrations and as a result it is now necessary for separate applications to be made to each administration if it is desired to seek patent and trade mark protection in both territories.

In both the Gilbert Islands and Tuvalu the patent and trade mark laws continue to be the Registration of United Kingdom Patents Ordinance 1924 and the Registration of United Kingdom Trade Marks Ordinance 1939. Application for the registration of United Kingdom patents and trademarks in the Gilbert Islands should be sent to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, PO Box 77, Bairiki, Tarawa, Gilbert Islands while similar applications for registration in Tuvalu should be sent to the Assistant Secretary, Office of Her Majesty's Commissioner, Ministry of Commerce and Natural Resources, Tuvalu (Ellice Islands) via Fiji.

Communications regarding all registrations made before the separation of the territories should be be sent to the Gilbert Islands.

Yemen Arab Republic: typhoid outbreak

An outbreak of typhoid fever has occurred on the Red Sea plain of the YAR and may spread to other parts due to lack of immunisation. All visitors are advised to obtain TAB injections. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3454.

Hints to business men booklets

Revised editions of the booklets on Canada, The Netherlands and Tanzania have been published in the 'Hints to business men' series. British businessmen who intend visiting these countries on export business can obtain copies of the booklets from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room DO5, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146, or any Regional Office of the Departments of Trade and Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. Inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd., 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel. 01-267 1285.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1554: Imports from the Eastern Area

Notice to Importers No. 1533 (published in *Trade and Industry*, 9 January 1976, page 89) set out the quota levels for imports into the United Kingdom from the Eastern Area during 1976.

The following amended quotas replace those that appeared in the lists which formed part of NTI No. 1533, but the licensing arrangements, and all the other requirements as set out in that Notice, remain unchanged:

Imports from China

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
11	69.11 69.12 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware (of which not more than £180,000 for ornamental ware and not more than £30,000 for pottery jars containing stem ginger or duck eggs)	433.5

Imports from the German Democratic Republic

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
11	ex 69.11 ex 69.12 ex 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware other than Meissen porcelain (of which not more than £160,000 for ornamental ware)	392
12	ex 69.11 ex 69.13	Meissen porcelain	60

Imports from Czechoslovakia

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
17	69.11 69.12 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware	355

Imports from Hungary

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
16	69.11 69.12 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware (of which not more than £50,000 for ornamental ware)	215

Imports from Poland

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
17	69.11 69.12 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware (of which not more than £15,000 for ornamental ware)	365

Imports from Romania

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
1	ex 07.01	Fresh tomatoes during the period 15 May to 31 October	1,980 tonnes
15	69.11 } 69.12 }	Domestic and ornamental china, porcelain and earthenware	285

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch 01-603 4644, ext. 379 (Chinese quotas and Eastern Area foodstuffs) ext. 280 (other Eastern Area quotas).

ECGD addresses

The Export Credits Guarantee Department's head office is at Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (Tel: 01-606 6699). ECGD has 10 local offices in various parts of the United Kingdom; these are listed from time to time in *Trade and Industry*.

No. 1555: Imports of textiles from Brazil – revised arrangements

The community has negotiated and initialled an agreement with Brazil on trade in textiles for the calendar years 1976 and 1977. The agreement provides for voluntary restraint to keep exports to the community of certain textile products intended for domestic consumption at agreed levels, and will apply as from 1 January 1976. Pending announcement of the community legislation to conclude the agreement its provisions are being operated de facto as set out below. Should the subsequent legislation result in any change in the provisions outlined here however, a further Notice to Importers will be issued.

Scope of the agreement and quantitative levels to be applied under community arrangements

The textile items covered by the agreement and the levels to be adhered to by Brazil in respect of those exports to the United Kingdom are set out in the Annex to this Notice. Effectively there is no additional licensing requirement since imports of cotton yarn and woven cotton textiles from Brazil are already subject to UK import licensing. The Brazilian authorities will administer the quotas by issuing export certificates to Brazilian exporters for onward transmission direct to United Kingdom importers. These certificates, together with a completed Form ILB/A, should be sent by the importer to Import Licensing Branch, at the address given above, who will issue import licences up to the appropriate overall quota limit.

Existing UK restrictions on textiles from Brazil that are not affected by the community arrangements

Provisional arrangements pending completion of the community arrangements for imports of cotton textiles from Brazil for the period 1 April 1976 to 31 March 1977 were set out in Notice to Importers No. 1549 published in *Trade and Industry* on 2 April 1976. Some of these textiles whose levels of export to the United Kingdom are currently restrained are not, however, covered by the EEC/Brazil Agreement. A further announcement will be made as soon as possible about the future arrangements for these textiles.

Imports for re-export

With the exception of products in Category 2 (viz. ex 55.09 Woven fabrics of cotton, unbleached or bleached) of the Annex, imports of restricted textiles from Brazil will not be set off against the quotas if they are re-exported outside the EEC in the same state or after limited processing. The general import licensing arrangements for restricted textiles re-exported from the United Kingdom are set out in Notice to Importers No. 1441.

United Kingdom import surveillance

In addition to the textiles covered by this notice most textiles from Brazil and other non-EEC countries are subject to United Kingdom import surveillance arrangements; descriptions of these goods and the licensing arrangements are set out in Notices to Importers Nos. 1484 and 1502.

Annex

TEXTILES ORIGINATING IN BRAZIL – UK QUOTA LEVELS UNDER COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS

Category no.	Tariff heading	Description	UK quota levels (tonnes) 1976	1977
1	55.05	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale	452	678
2	ex 55.09	Woven fabrics of cotton, unbleached or bleached	830	977
3	ex 55.09	Woven fabrics of cotton, other than unbleached or bleached	364	411
4	ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, or cotton	740	860

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch: 01-603 4644, ext. 367.

Applications for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering applications for the temporary exemption from import duty of the materials listed below on the grounds that these materials are not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available from these sources is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for these materials, or who are interested in their future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and normally continue until the end of the current calendar year, when they are reviewed.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption. Representations should be received by 28 May.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
39.02	Copolymers of vinyl chloride and vinyl acetate, in powder form, containing not less than 3.5 per cent by weight and not more than 6 per cent by weight of vinyl acetate, and which, when mixed in with 60 per cent of their weight of di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, form a smooth paste which gels completely on heating 145°C for 10 minutes.	Vestolit P1421 K	30 June 1977	T 15476

Tariff and Trade Notices

Austria

Exhaust gas regulations. The Austrian Ministry of Transport has announced that after 1 October 1976 there will be no special exemptions to the restrictions concerning vehicle exhaust gas regulations except where vehicles are being imported as part of personal effects, dowries and the like.

This should be noted by firms who export second-hand cars to Austria. In future second-hand cars which do not comply with the exhaust gas regulations will not be allowed into Austria. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 458/461.

Italy

Economic measures. The Italian *Official Gazette* 73, 18 March 1976, published decree law 46 of 18 March 1976 announcing economic measures aimed at reducing liquidity and halting the rapid fall of the lira. Details are as follows:

Changes in manufacturing taxes and corresponding frontier surtaxes

Petroleum products: The rate on special petroleum spirit other than white spirit, on petroleum spirit and on oil other than lamp oil has been increased from L23,070 to L29,136/100kg.

The reduced rate for JP4 jet fuel has been increased from L2,307 to L2,913.60.

The frontier surtax rate on liquefied petroleum for the propulsion of motor vehicles has been increased from L18,217 to L24,064/100kg.

Methane gas: A consumption tax and corresponding frontier surtax has been instituted on methane gas, pure or mixed with other gases for the propulsion of vehicles at the rate of L71.42/m^3.

Alcohol: The frontier surtax rate has been increased from L90,000 to L120,000 and the fiscal rate from L60,000 to L90,000.

Beer: The frontier surtax on beer has been increased from L400 to L600/hl.

Changes in Value Added Tax

a The following goods have been eliminated from the 6 per cent VAT list:

Fresh cut flowers and flower buds; foliage, branches and other parts of plants, grasses, mosses, lichens (BN ex 06.03 and ex 06.04)
Sugar confectionery, not containing cocoa (BN 17.04)
Cocoa powder unsweetened (BN 18.05)
Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa (BN 18.06)
Fruit and vegetable juices (BN ex 20.07)
Spa water, aerated water, ice (BN ex 22.01)
Lemonade and other non-alcoholic beverages (BN 22.02)
Wine of fresh grapes (BN ex 22.05)
Vermouths (BN ex 22.06)
Public entertainments, performances and games, other than sporting and theatrical events.
Services rendered to guests in hotels and similar establishments.
Postal service and national telegraph service.

b Goods now subject to 18 per cent VAT, previously 12 per cent:

Motor vehicles of a cylinder capacity of up to 2,000cc
Spirituous beverages, based on grapes, grape marc or other fruit.

c Goods now subject to 35 per cent VAT, previously 30 per cent:

Motor vehicles of a cylinder capacity of more than 2.000cc.
Spirituous beverages excluding those based on grapes, grape marc or other fruit

The decree law came into force on 18 March 1976. Copies of the decree law are available in Italian from OTAR Section, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 466/467/288.

Exchange deposit scheme. The Italian Government on 5 May 1976 announced a system requiring importers and others dealing in foreign exchange to place deposits equal to 50 per cent of the value of the import transaction in a non-interest bearing account with the Bank of Italy for a period of 90 days.

Only imports of wheat are exempt from the scheme, which has immediate effect and will continue for a period of three months. No further details are available at present, but for the EEC implications see page 433. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 466/467/288.

Spain

Foodstuffs: import regulations. The Spanish Food Code regulations of September 1967 for the importation of foodstuffs are being further implemented by the coming into effect of the following decrees which were published in the Spanish *State Gazette*, 13 September 1975.

Decree 2179/1975 applies to all those involved in the manufacture, preparation, marketing and importing of sweets, chewing gum and other confectionery products.

Decree 2180/1975 applies to clear soups and dehydrated soups.

Decree 2181/1975, these regulations apply to all pasta products (including imports) and to all persons manufacturing, marketing and importing such products.

Decree 2182/1975, these regulations apply to all persons manufacturing, preparing, marketing and importing nougat and marzipan.

Decree 2183/1975, these regulations apply to the production, distribution and marketing of beer.

Copies of English translation of above decrees are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 462/471/472/473.

Israel

Amendments to the Free Import Order. The Israeli authorities have issued the following amendments to the Free Import Order. (This is an order which lists goods for which no special import licence is required.)

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exporters (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

BN no.	Description	Special conditions
For BN 05.12 (all goods of this heading) 'special approval' is now required.		
For BN 17.01 ex 2000 (sugar in cubes, excluding crystal sugar, piece and candy sugar) 'approval of standard 356' is now required.		
Heading BN 30.04 has been replaced by:		
30.04 1000	Gauze bandages	Approval of standard – standard proposal 64113
9900 -a	Gauze pads	Approval of standard – standard proposal 64112
-b	Other goods made of gauge	Approval of standard IS 915
-c	Other	
Heading BN 76.03 will be replaced on 30 September 1976 by:		
76.03 3000	Wrought plates, sheets and strips of aluminium, plastic covered	

NOTES
Special approval – means that the importer must be in possession of a Special Authority issued to him by a Competent Authority to import goods as specified in his licence and subject to the conditions specified therein, if such has been specified.
Standards approval – means that the importer must be in possession of an approval from the Israeli Standard Institute according to which the goods imported correspond to the standard requirements or approval.

Import duty amendments. Import duty amendments have been issued affecting the following BN numbers:

22.08; 39.02; 48.16; 68.09; 70.10; 73.36, 38.40; 74.17; 84.17, 22, 23, 34, 61; 85.12; 87.02, 04, 05; 90.10; 93.05, 06, 07; 97.04, 06.

Purchase tax amendments. The Israeli authorities have issued the following amendments to the rate of Purchase Tax:

Purchase tax no.	Description	Rate of tax
Heading 0209 has been replaced by:		
0209	Stocking, tights	
50-	Stockings of synthetic fibres; tights	
51--	Stockings of stretch yarn, tights	35%
59--	Other	35%
90-	Other	25%
Exemptions		
(1) Of cotton, if the foot is not longer than 18cm.		
(2) Medical stockings and tights classifiable under headings 60.04.3010, or 60.06.3010 of the customs tariff.		BN 60.03.1100,
(3) Footlets made of fabrics on which the tax has been paid.		
Heading 1102 paragraph 90 has been replaced by:		
1102	Round bars and rods classifiable under heading BN 73.10.1090 of the customs tariff; hot rolled iron or steel wire – other than of steel alloys containing by weight 4% or more of other elements – having a solid section of any shape, whether or not it has undergone a twisting process, provided that the cross-sectional area of the wire does not exceed 5 sq cm; rolled rods and wire, of iron or steel, having projections or hollows whether or not they have undergone a twisting process	
90-	Other	37.5% b.n.l.t. IL 1.08 per kg
Heading 1508 paragraph 90 has been replaced by:		
1508	Motor vehicles	
90-	Other	
92--	Classified in heading 736 of the customs tariff	25%
99--	Other	100% b.n.l.t. IL 37.50 per kg

b.n.l.t. = but not less than

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Niger

Import tariff changes. Customs dues on all imports from the nine common market countries have been reduced by 50 per cent and the statistic tax for imports from all countries has been reduced to 2.50 per cent.

Alcoholic drinks.
Taxes have been changed to the following:
Per litre or bottle exceeding half litre size:

1	Beers and ciders	30 Fr
2a	Ordinary wines	75 Fr
b	Appelation Controlée wines	150 Fr
c	Sparkling wines	225 Fr
d	Champagne	300 Fr
3a	Spirits less than 12 degrees	180 Fr
b	Between 12 and 20 degrees	375 Fr
c	more than 20 degrees	825 Fr

Spirits in bottles holding between 26 and 50 cls. pay half these rates and in bottles containing 11 to 25 cls., quarter rate. Bottles of 10 cls. or less are subject to one tenth of these rates.

Tobacco and cigarette tax
On tobaccos from EEC – 900 Fr/kg
On tobaccos from other countries – 950 Fr/kg
(For tax purposes cigarettes are taxed as if weighing 1g each.)

Production tax
Reduced rate now 13.50 per cent.
Highest rate reduced to 21 per cent for goods under classification 22-09, 24-02, 33-06, 34-01, 34-02, All chapter 37, 71-12 and 71-16, 85-12 and 73-36, 84-12, 84-15, 85-06, 85-12-00, 85-15-39, 87-09, 87-02. 87-14 All chapter 90, 91 and 92, all chapter 98 except 98-03 to 98-09.
The tax on medicines 30-03 is reduced to nil rate.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472/471/473/462.

Senegal

Importation of second-hand motor vehicles. According to a recently published decree, the importation of second-hand motor vehicles is now subject to prior authorisation from the Minister of Commerce. Further details are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472/471/473/462.

Ghana

Investment. *Trade and Industry* of 16 May 1975, page 420, gave details of NRCD 329 – Investment Policy Decree 1975. The following is an extract from a notice published in the Ghana *Commercial and Industrial Bulletin* of 2 April 1976.

Ghanaian Enterprises Development Commission
GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS INTENDING TO PURCHASE ENTERPRISES RESERVED TO GHANAIANS BY THE INVESTMENT POLICY DECREE, 1975 (NRCD 329) FIRST SCHEDULE
In addition to those businesses reserved to Ghanaians under the Business Promotion Act, 1970, the following businesses have been exclusively reserved to Ghanaians by the Investment Policy Decree, 1975 (NRCD 329).

Industrial Enterprises, Including Service Industries
1 Printing of books and stationery (including publishing)
2 Ordinary manufacture/tailoring of garments such as Joromi, shirts, blouses, ladies garments, children's wear, etc.
3 Textile screen and printing (including tie and dye)
4 Manufacture of suitcases, briefcases, portfolios, hand-bags, shopping bags, purses, wallets, etc.
5 Tyre retreading

Commercial Projects
1 *The sale under hire purchase contract of motor vehicles, including taxis and vehicles intended to be used in the operation of taxi service*
2 Estate Agency
3 Lighterage Services
4 Travel Agency
5 All aspects of pool betting business and lotteries

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3331.

Trade and Industry, 16 May 1975, page 420, gave details of NRCD 329 – Investment Policy Decree 1975. The following notice (LI 1070) was published in the *Ghana Gazette*, 9 April 1976.

INVESTMENT POLICY (MODIFICATION OF EXCHANGE CONTROL ACT, 1961 (ACT 71) INSTRUMENT, 1976

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Chairman of the Supreme Military Council by section 41 (4) of the Investment Policy Decree, 1975 (NRCD329) this Instrument is made this 2nd day of April 1976.

For the purposes of the acquisition by any citizen of Ghana resident outside Ghana of any part of the capital of any enterprise affected by the Investment Policy Decree, 1975 (NRCD329), such citizen shall be deemed to be a Ghana resident within the meaning of the Exchange Control Act, 1961 (Act 71), and that Act shall be deemed to be modified accordingly.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3331.

Chilled or frozen fish: import prohibition. Legal Instrument 1073 published in the *Ghana Gazette*, 15 April 1976, amends from 12 April the Customs and Excise Tariff Regulations 1973 (LI 838) as follows:

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TARIFF (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 1976

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Commissioner responsible for Finance by section 270(1) of the Customs and Excise Decree, 1972 (NRCD114), this regulation is made this 12th day of April 1976.

The Sixth Schedule to the Customs and Excise Tariff Regulations, 1973 (LI 838) is hereby amended in Part A thereof, by the insertion immediately after item 12 thereof of the following new item:

SIXTH SCHEDULE: IMPORT PROHIBITIONS

A Absolute prohibitions

13 Chilled or frozen fish

Inquiries: OTAR 01-215 5757, ext. 473/472/471/462.

Nigeria

Exchange control. Further to Notice 339 of 12 April 1976, the Ministry of Finance, Lagos, issued a statement on 30 April reaffirming the exchange control procedure laid down in the budget. Further information has been received:

1 Banks will not be allowed to demand deposits above usual commercial levels before issue of letters of credit.

2 A port cargo clearance certificate will be required, and will be issued to ship/airline owners who will make copies available to exporters. A legal notice will be issued shortly setting out this procedure more precisely.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 3064/3338.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 15/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 7 May 1976, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on carboxymethylcellulose, of up to 75 per cent purity, classifiable under tariff subheading 39.03.65.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Indonesia

C-channel of iron and steel: import duty changes. The Indonesian Minister of Finance has announced, with effect from 9 February 1976, an increase of import duty on C-channel of iron and steel so that the duty becomes 40 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 469/401/468.

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General Management: Amman, Jordan Established 1930

Capital & Reserves	17,120,000 Jordan Dinars
Deposits	393,198,809 Jordan Dinars
Total Assets	668,328,966 Jordan Dinars

As at 30th June 1975

One Jordan Dinar (JD1) = U.S. $3.13 approx.

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ENCIRCLE TI 15 ON PAGE 455 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Singapore

Accumulators: customs duties amendment. The Singapore *Government Gazette* has published the following amendment to the Customs Duties Order 1974:

The Customs Duties (Amendment No. 4) Order, 1976, amends the Schedule to the Order by deleting the expression '$2.00 each' appearing in columns (5) and (6) against the Heading No. 85.04 100-2 thereof and substituting therefor in each case the word 'Nil'.

The heading relates to 6 and 12 volt accumulators of a height (excluding terminals, handles and covers) not exceeding 13cm, which accordingly become duty free. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 401/468/469.

United States

Escape clause investigation on slide fastners (zippers): President's decision. The President of the United States has decided not to grant import relief but to give expedited adjustment assistance to the US industry following the International Trade Commission's finding in February of serious injury to the industry arising from increased imports of slide fasteners (zippers).

Escape clause investigation on footwear: President's decision. The US International Trade Commission made a unanimous finding in February of serious injury to US industry arising from increased imports of non-rubber footwear. The President has decided not to grant import relief but to provide expedited adjustment assistance to the industry and its employees. Congress cannot override this decision because there was no majority recommendation by the ITC in favour of a remedy.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Food additives: synthetic fatty alcohols. The US *Federal Register*, 22 April 1976, published details of an amendment to the standard and use in food and food contact, of synthetic hexyl, octyl, lauryl, myristyl, cetyl and stearyl alcohols. Comments (six copies) to be submitted by 24 May 1976. A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Paint solvents: poison prevention packaging. The US *Federal Register*, 23 April 1976, published regulations by the CPSC for special packaging of paint solvents and similar materials, to protect young children from injury or illness due to contact with the material. A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Food: safety of certain ingredients. The US *Federal Register*, 22 April 1976, published notice of a public hearing on the use of gum guaiac, sodium and zinc hydrosulfite, sulfamic acid and tall oil. Written comments (three copies) to be submitted before 24 May 1976. A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Uruguay

Further exemptions to 7 per cent additional surcharge list. Decree 128/976 of 19 February 1976 details two more items which are to be added to 7 per cent additional surcharge exemption list:

Imports of goods for investment projects financed by international credit organisations or foreign government bodies with international financing.

The import of goods whose final destination is integration in fixed investments by the public sector in investment projects passed by the executive power.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Brazil

Computers and ancillaries subject to temporary prior approval of CAPRE. CONCEX Resolution No. 106 and CACEX Comunicado No. 549, both of 31 March 1976, laid down that the issue of import licences for 'electronic computers and their ancilliaries as well as other equipment constituting or complementing electronic data processing systems', of the tariff headings listed below, would be dependent until 31 December 1976, on the prior approval of CAPRE – Commissão de Co-ordenação das Atividades de Processamento Electrônico (Co-ordinating Commission for Electronic Processing Activities).

The goods and tariff headings affected are as follows:

Tariff no.	Description
84.53.00.00	Automatic data processing machines and their parts; magnetic or optical readers, data registering machines in support, in a coded form, and machines for the processing of such data
84.55.11.00	Spare parts and accessories identifiable as solely or mainly for use with machines of heading 84.53
85.19.08.00	Ex Printed circuits, having three or more levels of circuits, exposed or embedded, for use with machines of heading 84.53
85.21.14.01	Electronic micro-structures for electronic data processing machines of heading 84.53
85.21.14.99	Ex Electronic micro-structures for data processing machines of heading 84.53, exclusively in rectangular shapes more than 16 pins, circular with more than five pins, and square
90.07.01.07	Direct micro-filming apparatus with means of computer print-out known by the sign COM

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 476/474.

Duty concessions on goods for certain industries. *Ministerio de Industria e do Comercio Portaria* 249, published in Brazil's *Diario Oficial*, 19 March 1976, set out a revised list of industrial sectors which benefit from duty concessions on importing goods. The list is extensive and thus not published here. Exporters may obtain details from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Flares: duty abolished. Notice 302, published by the Brazilian authorities on 21 April 1976, abolished duty on flares of heading 36.05.99.00 – the rate had been 185 per cent. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Argentina

Capital goods. Decree 610 of 12 February 1976 published by the Argentine authorities, amends decree 524 of 15 April 1975 concerning payment for capital goods. The payment of the first quota will be 12 months for all imports, except those of a value of less than $US 30,000, which remain at six months. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 474/476.

Venezuela

Duty reductions for motor vehicles. Decree No. 1547 of 27 April 1976 reduces the duty on various motor vehicles (previous rates shown in brackets):

87.01.01.00	Road tractors	40% (70%)
87.02.01.99.02	Motor vehicles for the transport of persons (to be produced in the country)	120% (350%)
87.02.01.99.03	Rustic vehicles (jeeps)	50% (90%)
87.02.04.99.03	Trucks and vans up to 4,000kg weight	60% (100%)
87.02.04.99.04	Trucks and vans over 4,000kg weight	40% (70%)

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757, ext. 474/476.

Paraguay

Foreign investment law. Law 550, passed by the Paraguayan Congress on 19 December 1975, replaced Law 216 governing capital investment, and came into force at the beginning of this year.

Law 550 does not make any substantial changes to the conditions and tax rebates conceded to capital investment under the previous Law 216/70, but it does provide for special consideration being given to those investments which contribute to the development of specific areas in the country which in the previous law were limited to western Paraguay.

A free translation of Law 550 is available.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5287.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries inc. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,472	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	425	325	68	−30	735	−25	760
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,058	280	778
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−18	−175	48	−11	131	−702	833
1973	110	114	107	88	125	1064	396	102	334	−842	−2,332	1,490
1974	110	113	105	98	113	597	666	81	−68	−3,650	−5,264	1.614
1975	108	113	104	85	98	−652	−381	−104	6	−1,702	−3,200	1,498
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	370	166	37	51	−130	−343	213
2nd qtr.	110	113	104	83	118	308	88	3	185	−83	−414	331
3rd qtr.	110	114	107	92	120	181	46	29	47	−256	−625	369
4th qtr	109	114	107	89	132	205	96	32	51	−373	−950	577
1974 1st qtr	106	112	108	97	112	−176	−31	18	−59	−855	−1,297	442
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	295	191	43	27	−969	−1,366	397
3rd qtr.	112	113	103	97	119	373	368	3	−14	−861	−1,253	392
4th qtr.	111	114	107	101	113	105	139	17	−22	−965	−1,348	383
1975 1st qtr.	110	115	106	93	101	−176	−4	−31	−57	−435	−850	415
2nd qtr.	107	112	102	86	100	−254	−112	−54	−52	−336	−681	345
3rd qtr.	107	111	107	82	101	−156	−204	−29	60	−625	−986	361
4th qtr.	108	112	101	79	91	−66	−61	10	55	−306	−683	377
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−0.8	−1.9	−0.2	−9.9	−4.6							
on a year earlier	−3.6	−2.0	−1.2	−18.9	−17.4							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)				Labour (UK)				Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million at current price	
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,530
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,141	9,843
1973	110.2	110.9	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,772	14,104
1974	106.1	107.8	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5●	2.6●	302.2●	15.895	21,159
1975	100.9	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	4.0	148.2●	18,772	21,972
1974 2nd qtr.	107.6	109.3	107.8	105	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	577.4	2.5	318.4	4,007	5,373
3rd qtr.	107.9	109.6	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	4,222	5,475
4th qtr.	104.7	105.6	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,185	5,533
1975 1st qtr.	104.6	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.9	3.2	..	4,532	5,382
2nd qtr.	99.8	100.0	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	4,479	5,160
3rd qtr.	99.5	99.9	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.3	133.6	4,635	5,621
4th qtr.	99.8	99.8	105.8	85	144.2	25.3	256.0	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.9	113.6	5,126	5,809
1976 1st qtr.			107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.1 p	206.9 p	205.3 p	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	5,444 p	5,882 p
1975 Apr.	101.1	101.4	120.0	95	129.1	21 7	222.9	182.5	170.1	798.3	3.4	180.8	1,379	1,729
May	99.1	99.1	103.7	95	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	850.3	3.6	163.3	1,611	1.693
June	99.1	99.4	104.1	91	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.6	893.5	3.8	149.0	1,489	1,738
July	100.1	100.6	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.8	968.2	4.1	133.9	1,567	1,943
Aug.	98.5	98.8	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.6	997.4	4.3	135.9	1,486	1,886
Sept.	100.0	100.3	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	186.0	1,034.4	4.4	131.1	1,582	1,792
Oct.	100.2	100.5	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	252.3	197.0	187.5	1,088.7	4.7	118.9	1,728	1,945
Nov.	100.2	100 5	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.9	111.8	1,637	1,918
Dec.	98.8	98.5	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.0	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	1,761	1,946
1976 Jan.	100.5	101.7	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.0	204.8	202.0	1,210.5	5.2	111.1	1,778	1,951
Feb.	101.4	101.4	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.5	207.3	206.3	1,232.4	5.3	113.5	1,759	2,005
Mar.			105.5	101	150.6	21.2	273.7 p	208.5 p	207.7	1,226.6	5.3	122.0	1,907 p	1926 p
Apr.				111 p			284.7 p	211.2 p		1,233.8p	5.3	123.9		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+0.1	+0.1	+1.4	+10.9	+3.3		+5.8	+3.6	+6.0	+5.0		+7.9	+6	+1½
on a year earlier	−4.0	−5.3	−3.6	+4.1	+22.5		+23.9	+16.6	+25.5	+60.6		−37.3	+20	+9½

p Provisional † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ● Average of 11 months

Official reserves in April

The UK official reserves fell by $1,057 million during April, following accruals and repayments of foreign currency borrowings by the public sector under the exchange cover scheme of $456 million and $27 million respectively. At the end of April they stood at $4,848 million.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	ø fifty-three week
p provisional	period

Business Monitors

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PQ 333.2 Valves for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 336 Construction and earth moving equipment for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 338 Office machinery for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 339.1 Mining machinery for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 362 Insulated wires and cables for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 365.1 Gramophone records and tape recordings for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 361 Electrical machinery for third quarter 1975
PQ 366 Electronic computers for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 369.2 Primary and secondary batteries for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 380 Wheeled tractors for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 382 Motor cycles and pedal cycles for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 393 Bolts, nuts, screws, rivets, etc., for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 394 Wire and wire manufactures for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 399.8 Needles, pins, fish-hooks and other metal small-wares for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 417.1 Hosiery and other knitted goods for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 417.2 Warp knitting for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 423 Textile finishing for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 432 Leather goods for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 449.1 Corsets and miscellaneous dress industries for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 495 Miscellaneous stationers' goods for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 469.2 Miscellaneous building materials and mineral products for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 499.1 Musical instruments for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 499.2 Miscellaneous manufacturing industries for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 1005 Office equipment for third quarter 1975

Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (Nos. SD 1 to SD 9) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. The annual Monitors are individually priced and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors), and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government bookshops or through booksellers.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 7 May 1976.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Vampyres	BR/E 38576/9/5/81	84	3 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Essay Films Ltd.
Chopin	BR/E 38591/9/5/81	18	7 May	Gala Film Distributors Ltd.	Triangle Film Productions Ltd.
Movietone News 2448	BR/E 38356/9/5/81	8	7 May	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			FOREIGN		
The Devil's Rain	F 38575	86	3 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Bryanston Distributors Inc., New York
Sky Blue Pink	F 38577	6	3 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Come On In The Water's Pink	F 38578	6	3 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Twinkle Twinkle Little Pink	F 38579	6	4 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
The Pink Quarterback	F 38580	6	4 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Pink Paradise	F 38581	6	4 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Pinto Pink	F 38582	6	4 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Lucky Pink	F 38583	6	4 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Pink Outs	F 38584	6	4 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Put Put Pink	F 38585	6	4 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Super Pink	F 38586	6	4 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Mirish Geoffrey DF, California
Monsters From An Unknown Planet	F 38587	83	6 May	Miracle Films Ltd.	Toho International Co. Ltd., Tokyo
The Wrestler	F 38588	95	6 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Entertainment Ventures Inc., California
The Human Factor	F 38589	96	6 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Lactifer Films Ltd., London
All The Way Boys	F 38590	92	7 May	Seven Keys Ltd.	West Films FRL, Rome

Regional selective assistance

The table shows offers of £10,000 or more made since 31 July 1974 under Section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 against which a first payment to the company concerned was made in the period 1 October to 31 December 1975. Offers of interest relief grant with a loan equivalent of £10,000 or more are also shown.

Region and company	Type of assistance (see notes at foot of table)	Amount of assistance commited (£)	Reason (see notes at foot of table)
SCOTLAND			
Baker Oil Tools (UK) Ltd.	IRG	237,500	A
British Olivetti	L	2,000,000	A
Brooklyn Westbrick Ltd.	IRG	6,000	A
Calis Bitmo (Scotland) Ltd.	IRG	94,000	A
Cibco Bio-cult Diagnostics Ltd.	IRG	7,500	A
Exacta Circuits Ltd.	IRG	47,000	A
Govan Shipbuilders Ltd.	L and G	17,200,000*	B
Gilmour and Dean Ltd.	IRG	47,000	A
Haldow Engineering Co. Ltd.	IRG	7,500	A
N. Hyer Ltd.	IRG	7,200	A
Robert Kellie and Son Ltd.	IRG	49,000	A
Lothian Engineering Co. Ltd.	IRG	10,575	A
May and Bruce Ltd.	IRG	5,280	A
Mono Concrete Ltd.	L	100,000	A
Nuluk Surface Treatments	IRG	76,500	A
Perenco Ltd.	IRG	31,200	A
Precision Machinery (Edinburgh) Ltd.	IRG	13,500	A
Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons Ltd.	IRG (4)	1,722,500	A
Redlac	IRG	14,400	A
Tri State Oil Tool (UK) Ltd.	IRG	61,500	A
Tubbs Plastics Ltd.	L	39,000	A
Total		21,777,155	
WALES			
Anglian Tendabeef Co. Ltd.	L	45,000	A
Barn Lake Engineering Ltd.	IRG	50,000	A
Cargo Van Equipment Ltd.	L	150,000	A
Delanair Ltd.	L	450,000	A
Evans and Greenway (Bryncrag) Ltd.	IRG	4,100	A
Fibre Brush Motor Co. Ltd.	L	30,000	A
Hymac Ltd.	IRG and RG	420,000	A
Kronospan Ltd.	IRG	17,100	A
Lin Pac Containers (Rosedale Industries) Ltd.	L and RG	1,950,000	A
Penny and Giles Conductive Plastics Ltd.	IRG	30,750	A
RMG Engineering (Wrexham) Ltd.	IRG	10,000	A
Setton and Durward Ltd.	IRG and RG	17,000	A
Severnside Foods Ltd.	RG	14,900	A
The Plessey Co. Ltd.	RG	4,100	A
The Walter Kidde Co. Ltd.	RG	800	A
Total		3,193,750	
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE			
F. K. Booth Ltd.	IRG	1,753	A
Burgon and Ball Ltd.	IRG	12,608	A
Burridge and Boyde Ltd.	IRG	1,688	A
D and K Carlisle Engineering	L	15,500	A
Cynamid (of Great Britain) Ltd.	IRG	26,432	A
Drypool Group (to Receiver)	L	300,000	B
Garthwest Ltd.	IRG	16,530	A
Holbrook Precision Castings Ltd.	IRG	31,916	A
Hull Engineering Co. Ltd.	IRG	6,358	A
International Sports Co. Ltd.	IRG (4)	29,249	A
Kirkstall Forge Engineering Ltd.	IRG	6,435	A
William Lamb and Co. (Footwear) Ltd.	IRG	23,514	A
Maxons Ltd.	IRG	3,292	A
Midland Bank Ltd.	RG (6)	208,957	A
Oakleaf Reproductions Ltd.	IRG	3,277	A
Power Plastics Ltd.	IRG	3,012	A
PSL Engineering Ltd.	IRG	7,744	A
Reckitt Colman Ltd.	IRG and RG	362,829	A
G. R. Scott (Insulation) Ltd.	L	25,000	A
Smith and Nephew Plastics Ltd.	IRG	21,426	A
Todwick Cooked Meats Ltd.	IRG	9,998	A
Wold Farm Foods Ltd.	IRG	21,800	A
Wombwell Foundry and Engineering Co. Ltd.	IRG	7,676	A
Total		1,146,994	
NORTH WEST			
Baxenden Chemical Co. Ltd.	IRG	9,600	A
Binnie and Partners	RG (3)	71,500	A
Blue Star Ship Management	RG (3)	110,812	A
Wm. Booth and Co. (Metalwork) Ltd.	IRG	2,850	A
David Brown (Tractors) Ltd.	IRG	96,900	A
Bicc Components Ltd.	IRG	25,900	A
Cableform Ltd.	IRG	9,600	A
Celmac Plasclip Ltd.	IRG	39,330	A
Chance and Hunt	RG (3)	40,040	A
Computer Services Centre (London) Ltd.	RG (3)	62,540	A
Coopind Ltd.	IRG	232,750	A
Courtaulds Ltd.	IRG	475,700	A
Croxden Gravel Co. Ltd.	IRG	24,000	A
CRP Company	IRG	3,000	A
J. S. Duxbury and Sons Ltd.	IRG	2,400	A
Leonard Fairclough Ltd.	IRG	6,000	A
J. Fisher and Co. (Cleveleys) Ltd.	IRG	8,400	A
W. Halliwell and Co. Ltd.	IRG	3,600	A
Harrad Engineering Ltd.	IRG	2,720	A
Wm. Irwin and Co. (North West) Ltd.	IRG	5,496	A
Lewis Wolf Griptight Ltd.	IRG	89,600	A
Longworth Paper and Plastics Ltd.	IRG	7,500	A
Lowes Ltd. (The West Lancashire Press)	IRG	7,350	A
James Miller and Partners	IRG	86,625	A
M and J Engineers Ltd.	IRG	6,000	A
Nettle Accessories Ltd.	IRG	50,400	A
A. Pellowe and Sons Ltd.	IRG	1,080	A
Plasdel Ltd.	IRG	9,990	A
Ransome Hoffman Pollard Ltd.	IRG	96,000	A
Smith Springs (Rochdale) Ltd.	IRG	2,220	A
Storey Bros. and Co. Ltd.	IRG	72,000	A
Teleworth Ltd.	L	30,335	A
The Northern Diecasting Co. Ltd.	IRG	7,500	A
The Singer Co. (UK) Ltd.	IRG	76,875	A
Typolac (UK) Ltd.	IRG	18,750	A
Unit Pallets Ltd.	IRG	7,200	A
B. Walker and Son Ltd.	IRG	5,075	A
Warrington Research Centre	IRG	5,850	A
L. Whitaker and Sons Ltd.	IRG	3,600	A
Wright Ireson	IRG	2,550	A
Total		1,819,638	
NORTHERN			
Cleveland Bridge Engineering Co. Ltd.	IRG	107,500	A
Copydex Ltd.	IRG	3,600	A
Douglas Bros. Ltd.	IRG	6,600	A
Eaton Axles Ltd.	IRG	63,000	A
Ellis Plastics Ltd.	IRG	3,120	A
Gilco Manufacturing	IRG	4,260	A
W. Hackney and Co. Ltd.	IRG	27,730	A
Hymark Chemical Co. Ltd.	IRG	4,230	A
N. Hyer Ltd.	IRG	7,500	A
Norsted Engineering Services Ltd.	IRG	12,250	A
Pointing Ltd.	IRG	15,600	A
Polypac Bal Ltd.	L	950,000	A
Reed Corrugated Cases Ltd.	IRG	5,400	A
SAB Brake Regulator Co. Ltd.	IRG	6,000	A
Smith Bros. (Whitehaven) Ltd.	IRG	10,000	A
Sterling Organics	IRG	52,200	A
The Lindisfarne Liqueur Co. Ltd.	IRG	5,000	A
Wolsingham Steel Co. Ltd.	L	500,000	A
Total		1,783,990	
EAST AND WEST MIDLANDS			
Applied Welding Services Ltd.	L	10,000	A
Cynat Ltd.	L and RG	24,900	A
Diagraph Plastics Ltd.	IRG and RG	1,670	A
Drewry and Edwards	IRG	10,320	A
Dowdings	IRG	7,300	A
Du Pont (UK) Ltd.	IRG	7,200	A
Walter Gotell Ltd.	IRG and RG	2,400	A
Gerhard Moeller Ltd.	IRG and RG	46,120	A
Reeve Burgess Ltd.	IRG	11,700	A
Total		121,610	
SOUTH WEST			
Aurifex Ltd.	IRG	3,315	A
Cornish Quality Bacon Ltd.	L	80,000	A
Fitzgerald Light Ring Ltd.	L	60,000	A
Holsworthy Electronics Ltd.	IRG	8,140	A
S. Inch and Son	IRG	2,460	A
Kernewek Pottery	IRG	6,840	A
North Devon Electronics Ltd.	IRG	10,250	A
Regatex Ltd.	IRG	4,980	A
Spanboard	IRG and RG	131,360	A
Total		307,345	
Total amount of assistance committed:		30,150,482	
Total amount paid in Regional Selective Assistance during period:		27,352,000	

* At current 1975 prices.

Notes:

A – New jobs being created. B – Preservation of employment. E – Equity. G – Grant for general purposes. IRG – Interest relief grant. L – Loan. RG – Removal grants.

Acquisitions and mergers of industrial and commercial companies in the first quarter of 1976

The number of acquisitions of industrial and commercial companies rose slightly in the first quarter of 1976 though there was a slight fall in total expenditure on acquisitions. The financial press reported 93 companies acquired for a total expenditure of £71 million in the quarter, compared with 72 companies acquired for £81 million in the previous quarter. Table 1 shows that acquisition activity has been low since the second quarter of 1974 and that the total expenditure in the first quarter of 1976 was much the same as the quarterly average for 1975, though the numbers of companies involved, both acquiring and acquired, were slightly higher than the averages for 1975.

The data have been collected on the present basis since the beginning of 1969. The chart, which illustrates the number of companies acquired and the total expenditure each quarter since then, shows that acquisition activity generally rose from the second quarter of 1971 until the end of 1972, reaching a peak in the fourth quarter of 1972 in terms of expenditure and in the first quarter of 1973 in terms of number of companies acquired. Activity then generally fell until the first quarter of 1975, when expenditure and the number of companies acquired both reached their lowest values since the beginning of 1969. Since the first quarter of 1975 the number of companies acquired has tended to recover slightly but the level of expenditure has remained low.

There were three acquisitions for more than £10 million in the first quarter of 1976: Barratt Developments acquired H. C. Janes for £11.5 million, Northern Foods acquired Clover Dairies for £10.8 million, and Dixons Photographic acquired Weston Pharmaceuticals for £10.1 million. Table 2 shows that the seven largest acquisitions (8 per cent of the total number) accounted for 63 per cent of the total expenditure in the quarter, while the remaining 86 companies (92 per cent of the total number), which were each acquired for £2 million or less, accounted for 37 per cent of total expenditure. The average cost of acquisitions in the first quarter of 1976 was £0.8 million, much the same as the quarterly average for 1975 of £0.9 million.

Table 3 shows that the proportion of total expenditure in the form of cash rose in the first quarter of 1976, after falling for four quarters in succession, and that the proportion in the form of ordinary shares fell from an unusually high level in the fourth quarter of 1975. The proportion in the form of fixed interest securities remained very low. The proportion of total expenditure accounted for by each of these three methods of payment tends to vary considerably from quarter to quarter. However, the proportion in cash has tended to be high since the beginning of 1973, compared with earlier years, and the proportions in ordinary shares and in fixed interest securities have tended to be low. The proportion in fixed interest securities has generally been very low since the beginning of 1974.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 are taken from a more detailed analysis published in Business Monitor M7, Acquisitions and Mergers of Companies (obtainable from HMSO each quarter for an annual subscription of 74p). The Business Monitor also contains tables analysing acquisitions and mergers by industry.

Notes

This analysis relates only to industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom and is based on reports in the financial press supplemented by special inquiries to companies to determine the form, value and timing of particular acquisitions. The Bank of England compiles an analysis of acquisitions and mergers relating to financial companies (banks, insurance companies, etc.) which is published in the *Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin*.

No method of valuing acquisitions is altogether free from objection. The values shown here relate in general to expenditure during the current period, excluding any previous investments in the company acquired. Where possible, the values are market values, ie the cash paid or the market price at date of issue of shares or loan stock issued. Where market values are not available (as in the case of unlisted securities) or the cash payment is not disclosed, acquisitions are in general valued at the net book value of the acquired company. When comparing the series over time one must allow for the considerable short-term fluctuations in share prices, in addition to allowing for the general inflation of values.

Where the acquired company was a subsidiary of another United Kingdom company, the transaction is classified as a sale between company groups. Acquisitions between subsidiaries of the same company group, in the course of internal reorganisation, have been ignored.

As far as possible, acquisitions are recorded at the date when the transaction is finalised (eg when a bid is declared unconditional). This date usually comes before the date on which the shares in the acquired company are surrendered, although it may be considerably later than the date when the bid is first announced in the press.

Acquisitions and mergers of industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom

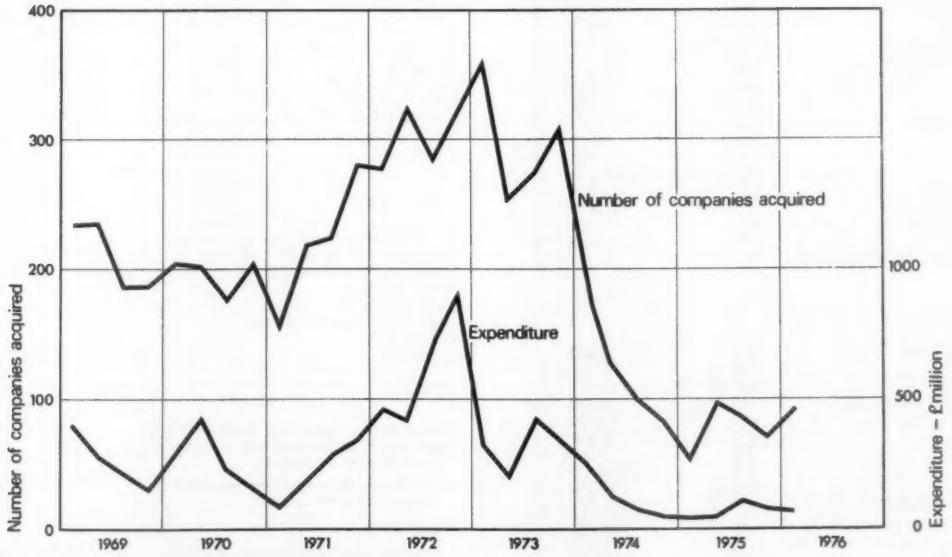


TABLE 1 Acquisitions and mergers within the United Kingdom

	Total all acquisitions and mergers			Acquisitions of independent companies and mergers: Total			Acquisitions of independent companies			Mergers†			Sales of subsidiaries between company groups		
	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million	Number acquiring	Number acquired	Value £ million
1969	686	846	1,068.9	595	744	969.2	593	742	961.6	2	2	7.6	91	102	99.7
1970	629	793	1,122.5	490	614	996.6	484	608	954.1	6	6	42.5	139	179	125.9
1971	687	884	911.1	498	620	745.6	498	620	745.6	–	–	–	189	264	165.5
1972	928	1,210	2,531.6	716	938	2,346.2	710	931	2,336.9	6	7	9.3	212	272	185.4
1973	929	1,205	1,304.3	724	951	1,057.5	722	949	1,055.2	2	2	2.3	205	254	246.8
1974	427	504	508.4	307	367	459.1	306	366	451.6	1	1	7.5	120	137	49.3
1975	276	315	290.8	180	200	221.0	177	197	215.1	3	3	5.9	96	115	69.8
1973 1st quarter	258	362	323.7	195	278	280.4	195	278	280.4	–	–	–	63	84	43.3
2nd quarter	207	256	205.6	164	203	179.4	164	203	179.4	–	–	–	43	53	26.2
3rd quarter	215	276	431.7	175	226	299.7	173	224	297.4	2	2	2.3	40	50	132.0
4th quarter	249	311	343.3	190	244	298.0	190	244	298.0	–	–	–	59	67	45.3
1974 1st quarter	152	191	252.6	116	149	231.3	116	149	231.3	–	–	–	36	42	21.3
2nd quarter	105	128	129.8	68	83	118.1	68	83	118.1	–	–	–	37	45	11.7
3rd quarter	90	101	75.5	65	74	66.5	64	73	59.0	1	1	7.5	25	27	9.0
4th quarter	80	84	50.5	58	61	43.2	58	61	43.2	–	–	–	22	23	7.3
1975 1st quarter	50	56	47.1	35	37	38.4	34	36	36.9	1	1	1.5	15	19	8.7
2nd quarter	82	99	50.8	52	62	38.0	51	61	37.4	1	1	0.6	30	37	12.8]
3rd quarter	81	88	111.9	50	55	77.5	50	55	77.5	–	–	–	31	33	34.4
4th quarter	63	72	81.0	43	46	67.1	42	45	63.3	1	1	3.8	20	26	13.9
1976 1st quarter	82	93	71.3	62	71	65.3	61	70	64.9	1	1	0.4	20	22	6.0

† A merger (which takes place when two companies combine to form a new company) is reckoned as the acquisition of the smaller company by the larger and is valued at the market value of the smaller company's share of the newly formed company.

TABLE 2 Size distribution of acquisitions within the United Kingdom

Expenditure (£ million)	1974		1975		1975 2nd qtr.		1975 3rd qtr.		1975 4th qtr.		1976 1st qtr.	
	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m	Number acquired	Value £m
Over 25	3	151.1	1	32.4	—	—	—	—	1	32.4	—	—
Over 5 and up to 25	16	142.5	12	100.6	2	16.4	7	65.9	1	6.5	3	32.4
Over 2 and up to 5	26	80.1	24	71.3	3	8.4	7	20.8	7	22.1	4	12.4
2 or less	459	134.7	278	86.5	94	26.0	74	25.2	63	20.0	86	26.5
Total	504	508.4	315	290.8	99	50.8	88	111.9	72	81.0	93	71.3

TABLE 3 Categories of expenditure on acquisitions and mergers within the United Kingdom

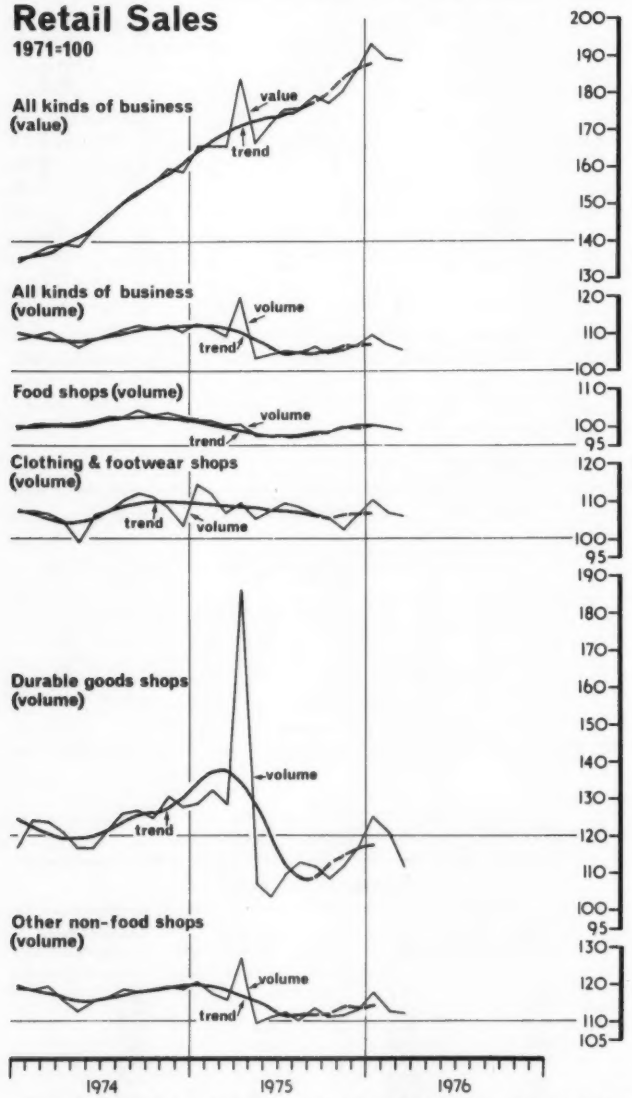
	Expenditure (£ million)				Percentage of expenditure		
	Total	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities	Cash	Issues of ordinary shares	Issues of fixed interest securities
1969	1,069	296	552	221	27.7	51.6	20.7
1970	1,122	251	596	275	22.4	53.1	24.5
1971	911	285	437	189	31.3	48.0	20.7
1972	2,532	493	1,459	580	19.5	57.6	22.9
1973	1,304	691	466	147	53.0	35.7	11.3
1974	508	347	114	47	68.3	22.4	9.3
1975	291	173	93	25	59.4	32.0	8.6
1973 1st quarter	323.7	120.7	157.4	45.6	37.3	48.6	14.1
2nd quarter	205.6	90.1	92.0	23.5	43.8	44.8	11.4
3rd quarter	431.7	310.5	100.5	20.7	72.0	23.2	4.8
4th quarter	343.3	169.4	116.4	57.4	49.3	33.9	16.8
1974 1st quarter	252.6	189.8	51.0	11.8	75.1	20.2	4.7
2nd quarter	129.8	68.9	27.3	33.6	53.1	21.0	25.9
3rd quarter	75.5	42.3	32.6	0.6	56.1	43.1	0.8
4th quarter	50.5	46.2	3.3	1.0	91.5	6.5	2.0
1975 1st quarter	47.1	38.7	7.1	1.3	82.2	15.0	2.8
2nd quarter	50.8	33.5	17.3	—	65.9	34.1	—
3rd quarter	111.9	64.4	24.0	23.5	57.6	21.4	21.0
4th quarter	81.0	36.2	44.6	0.2	44.7	55.1	0.2
1976 1st quarter	71.3	37.9	32.6	0.8	53.2	45.7	1.1

Retail sales in March

Volume

The final seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in March is 105.5 (1971 = 100). This estimate shows a fall from the February level (107.1) compared with the little change suggested by the provisional estimate of 106¼. The March level of trade is now estimated to have been little different from the average in the months just before December of last year.

The volume of trade fell in both March and February following increases in the two preceding months. The monthly movement of trade over this period probably reflects the effects of comparatively buoyant



The indices for all shops, food shops and total non-food shops are shown to the first decimal place to help interpretation, but should not be regarded as necessarily accurate to the final digit. The best indication of the recent trend is normally obtained by comparing the average index for the latest three months with the average for the immediately preceding three months but month to month fluctuations may sometimes make it preferable to average two or four months.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked • which are of five weeks. The March, 1976 sales period was the five weeks from 29 February 1976 to 3 April 1976. The corresponding period in 1975 was the five weeks from 2 March, 1975 to 5 April, 1975.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. (See Technical Note in *Trade and Industry* of 14 March 1975.)

The press notice giving the *provisional* estimates of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales for April and the increase in the value of sales compared with a year earlier will be published later this month.

TABLE 1 Volume of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1971 prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,896)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	105.8	101.5	109.0	105	115	109
1973	110.7	101.0	117.7	109	127	118
1974	109.9	101.8	115.9	107	123	117
1975	107.9	99.3	114.2	108	121	115
1974 1st quarter	109.6	100.2	116.4	107	122	119
2nd quarter	107.8	101.1	112.6	104	118	115
3rd quarter	111.2	103.0	117.2	110	125	118
4th quarter	111.3	102.8	117.5	107	128	119
1975 1st quarter	111.3	101.1	118.6	111	129	118
2nd quarter	108.9	98.6	116.3	108	130	116
3rd quarter	105.5	97.9	111.0	108	111	112
4th quarter	105.8	99.4	110.4	105	112	112
1976 1st quarter	107.3	99.5	113.1	108	118	114
1975 January •	112.8	101.9	120.7	115	128	121
February	111.6	101.2	119.1	112	132	118
March •	109.5	100.3	116.1	107	128	116
April	120.0	100.8	134.0	110	186	127
May	103.7	97.5	108.2	105	107	110
June •	104.1	97.7	108.7	108	103	111
July	105.4	97.7	111.0	110	109	112
August	104.8	97.5	110.2	109	113	110
September •	106 1	98.6	111.6	106	112	114
October	104.8	98.5	109.3	106	108	111
November	105.2	99.6	109.3	102	111	112
December •	107.0	100.1	112.1	107	117	113
1976 January	109.8	100.1	116.9	110	125	117
February	107.1	99.5	112.6	107	121	112
March •	105.5	98.9	110.4	106	112	112
1975 Oct.-Dec.	105.8	99.4	110.4	105	112	112
1976 Jan.-March	107.3	99.5	113.1	108	118	114
Percentage increase	1.4	0.1	2.4	2	5	1

TABLE 2 Value of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	112.0	108.9	114.2	112	118	114
1973	126.9	122.8	129.9	128	136	128
1974	146.7	144.5	148.2	149	143	150
1975	174.5	174.6	174.4	172	168	178
1974 1st quarter	136.6	134.6	138.1	139	134	139
2nd quarter	141.0	139.9	141.7	142	136	144
3rd quarter	150.9	147.9	153.1	157	147	154
4th quarter	158.2	155.7	160.0	159	155	162
1975 1st quarter	165.8	162.5	168.2	170	162	169
2nd quarter	173.7	172.3	174.8	168	177	177
3rd quarter	177.0	178.7	175.7	175	161	181
4th quarter	182.1	186.0	179.2	173	166	187
1976 1st quarter	190.2	192.9	188.3	183	176	195
1975 January •	165.9	159.8	170.3	174	160	172
February	165.7	161.9	168.4	172	165	168
March •	165.9	165.7	166.0	165	163	167
April	183.9	170.4	193.8	170	236	189
May	166.9	171.1	163.8	163	151	169
June •	171.1	174.7	168.4	171	150	174
July	175.3	176.3	174.5	176	160	179
August	175.8	178.3	174.0	176	160	178
September •	179.2	180.9	177.9	173	162	186
October	177.8	181.0	175.5	173	158	183
November	180.8	185.9	177.1	168	165	186
December •	186.4	190.2	183.8	178	173	190
1976 January	193.2	191.5	194.4	185	185	202
February	189.6	193.7	186.7	182	179	192
March •	188.3	193.3	184.7	182	166	192
1975 Oct.-Dec.	182.1	186.0	179.2	173	166	187
1976 Jan.-March	190.2	192.9	188.3	183	176	195
Percentage increase	4.4	3.7	5.1	6	6	5

(†) Including department stores and mail order businesses.

'sales' and also the easing of certain restrictions on credit in the middle of December.

In consequence, in the first quarter of the year the volume of sales was 1½ per cent above that of the fourth quarter of last year. However, it was still around 3½ per cent below the average level reached in the fourth quarter of 1974 and the first quarter of 1975.

For the main components of total trade, sales by durable goods shops (which would be most affected by the December measures) were up by 5 per cent between the fourth quarter of last year and the first quarter of 1976; sales by clothing and footwear shops were up by 2 per cent, and sales by 'other non-food' shops, which include department stores and mail-order businesses, rose by 1 per cent. Sales by food shops were unchanged.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the value of total retail sales in March was 13 per cent higher than in March 1975. In the first quarter of 1976, the average value of sales was 15 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1975.

Hire purchase and other instalment credit business in March

Finance houses and retailers advanced £280 million in new instalment credit agreements in March (seasonally adjusted), a little more than in February and about the same as in January. In the first quarter of 1976 as a whole advances were 9 per cent higher in total than in the fourth quarter of last year. Finance houses increased their lending in March compared with January and February and their total for the first quarter was £343 million compared with £303 million in the fourth quarter; an increase of 13 per cent. Lending by retailers decreased in March following a similar decrease in February from the fairly high level of advances in January. Retailers advanced £495 million in the first quarter in total, 6 per cent more than the £466 million in the fourth quarter.

The total value of retailers' instalment credit sales showed a similar quarter-to-quarter pattern. However, within this total, durable goods shops increased their average weekly sales by 16 per cent between the two quarters while department stores' sales increased by 8 per cent and other credit retailers' sales increased by only 2 per cent. Average weekly credit sales which during January were high for all these types of retail business fell back in February and March.

The total value of instalments outstanding to retailers and finance houses on credit agreements increased by £9 million in March following slightly larger increases in January and February. The total increase in debt during the first quarter was £35 million compared with a fall of £10 million in the fourth quarter of 1975. Almost the whole of the first quarter increase was in amounts outstanding to retailers; debt to finance houses increased only slightly. In recent quarters the amount outstanding to finance houses has been decreasing while outstandings to retailers have shown small increases. At the end of March the total outstanding to finance houses and retailers was £2,297 million, *not* seasonally adjusted, a little more than a year earlier.

TABLE 1 Hire-purchase and other instalment credit business seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Total		Finance Houses†		Retailers‡	
	New credit extended	Change in debt	New credit extended	Change in debt	New credit extended	Change in debt
1971	2,053	240	990	165	1,063	75
1972	2,497	424	1,222	296	1,275	128
1973	2,871	438	1,453	332	1,418	106
1974	2,517	−155	1,037	−160	1,480	5
1975	2,987	−10	1,201	−55	1,786	45
1974 1st quarter	570	−64	232	−53	338	−11
2nd quarter	618	−45	259	−42	359	−3
3rd quarter	651	−22	269	−32	382	10
4th quarter	678	−24	277	−33	401	9
1975 1st quarter	711	−9	286	−11	425	2
2nd quarter	759	14	309	−11	450	25
3rd quarter	748	−5	303	−17	445	12
4th quarter	769	−10	303	−16	466	6
1976 1st quarter	838	35	343	2	495	33
1975 September	260	9	108	5	152	4
October	253	−13	100	−14	153	1
November	251	−3	94	−5	157	2
December	265	6	109	3	156	3
1976 January	282	13	111	−8	171	21
February	276 r	13 r	111	2	165 r	11 r
March	280	9	121	8	159	1
1975 Oct.-Dec.	769	−10	303	−16	466	6
1976 Jan.-Mar.	838	35	343	2	495	33
Percentage increases	9		13		6	
Debt outstanding at 31 December 1975 (unadjusted)	—	2,320	—	1,423	—	897

† Direct business only: ie excluding agreements block discounted with finance houses by retailers.

‡ Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'. For further definitions see footnote to Table 2.

TABLE 2 Retailers' instalment credit sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1966 = 100

	Total†	Durable goods shops	Department stores	Other instalment credit retailers‡
H.P. and other instalment credit sales in 1966 §				
£ million	(862)	(327)	(46)	(489)
1971	134	138	138	131
1972	158	162	157	155
1973	176	165	181	183
1974	184	132	193	217
1975	217	161	231	254
1974 1st quarter	168	117	175	202
2nd quarter	178	126	178	213
3rd quarter	190	138	207	223
4th quarter	199	148	213	231
1975 1st quarter	207	153	228	241
2nd quarter	220	174	223	250
3rd quarter	217	157	229	257
4th quarter	226	163	242	267
1976 1st quarter	240	189	262	272
1975 September*	222	157	239	264
October	224	156	242	267
November	229	161	244	273
December*	226	169	241	262
1976 January	250	204	270	278
February	240	187	257	274
March*	232	180	260	265
1975 Oct.-Dec. av.	226	163	242	267
1976 Jan.-Mar. av.	240	189	262	272
Percentage increase	6	16	8	2

† Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'.

‡ General stores (other than department stores), general mail order houses and co-operative societies' non-durable goods departments.

§ Excluding sales against checks issued by other organisations.

The monthly periods for retailers consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The period covered by March 1976 sales was the five weeks from 29 February 1976 to 3 April 1976. The corresponding period in 1975 was from 2 March 1975 to 5 April 1975.

Wholesale price indices in April

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products rose by 1¼ per cent in April to 211.2 (1970 = 100). The increased duty on alcoholic drinks announced in the Budget was responsible for one-fifth of this increase.

The increase of 1¼ per cent in the provisional price index for manufactured goods other than food, drink and tobacco reflected the normal quarterly pattern of price changes. The latest three months to April show an increase of 3¼ per cent compared with 6 per cent in the same period last year.

Higher prices for bread and animal and poultry foods were mainly responsible for the rise of 1 per cent in the provisional price index for the output of the food manufacturing industries. This index has risen by only 2½ per cent in the latest three months.

The change in the index for all manufactured products, measured over a 12-month period, fell once again. The figure of 15¾ per cent for April compares with 16¼ per cent for March and 24¾ per cent in the 12-month period to April 1975.

Input prices

The provisional index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 4 per cent to 284.7.

The rise of 4¾ per cent in the index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries followed a similar rise in March. The latest increase was again due to higher prices for a wide range of imported commodities and semi-manufactures reflecting the continued depreciation of the pound against major foreign currencies in April.

The sharp increase of 6¾ per cent in the index for coal, gas and electricity in April was caused by higher prices for electricity.

The increase of 1 per cent in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries reflected higher prices for home-produced materials, particularly potatoes, fish and cereals. Lower prices for imported sugar were partly offset by price increases for coffee and other imported materials.

Note

The full effect of the Budget increases for alcoholic drinks and tobacco will be reflected in the index for May. The whole of the increases last year took effect in May.

1970 = 100

	Feb.	Mar. p	Apr. p
Output prices (Home sales)			
All manufactured products	207.3	208.5	211.2
Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	215.0	216.4	219.0
Products of the food manufacturing industries	215.3	216.6	218.7
Prices of materials and fuel purchased			
By manufacturing industry	263.5	273.7	284.7
Materials	269.4	279.8	290.4
Coal, gas and electricity	207.5	215.8	230.4
By manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	276.8	290.0	304.5
Materials	286.7	300.6	315.1
By food manufacturing industries	235.2	238.6	241.3
Materials	235.5	238.7	241.1

p = provisional.

The full article will be published next week.

Provisional estimates of vehicle production and new car registrations in April

Tables 1 and 2 show United Kingdom vehicle production in the four weeks ending 24 April, as estimated from provisional returns supplied by the major manufacturers. April car production at 93,000 units (23,250 per week) was 12 per cent lower than the level of output in April 1975. Commercial vehicle output of 26,600 units (6,650 per week) was 15 per cent below the level of production in April 1975.

In seasonally adjusted terms, car output of 104,000 units in April was 2 per cent below the average monthly output in 1975. Commercial vehicles at 29,100 units was 8 per cent below the average monthly output lastyear.

However, production of both cars and commercial vehicles was higher in the three months February-April than in the preceding three months (19 per cent for cars and 7 per cent for commercial vehicles).

Table 3 show provisional estimates of new car registrations. Seasonally adjusted, new car registrations in Great Britain in April are provisionally estimated at 111,000. In the three months February to April the average monthly level of registrations was 105,000, a rise of 11 per cent from the average during the preceding three months.

TABLE 1 Estimated UK production in April 1976

Thousands

	Cars		Commercial vehicles	
	Month	Weekly average	Month	Weekly average
Estimated output:				
1976 (4 weeks ended 24.4.76)	93.0	23.3	26.6	6.7
1975 (4 weeks ended 26.4.75)	106.2	26.5	31.3	7.8
Percentage change		−12		−15

TABLE 2 UK vehicle production: monthly averages (seasonally adjusted)

Thousands

	1975				1976				Average of		
	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Nov. 1975/ Jan. 1976	Feb./Apr. 1976	% change
Cars	126	91	107	99	117	134	121	104	100	120	+19
Commercial vehicles	36.9	30.2	30.3	29.5	31.8	33.3	32.5	29.1	29.5	31.7	+ 7

TABLE 3 New car registrations

Thousands

	1975				1976				Average of		
	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Nov. 1975/ Jan. 1976	Feb./Apr. 1976	% change
Recorded	116	96	108	69	115	105	115	109			
Seasonally adjusted	108	94	103	84	106	101	101	111	94	105	+11

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A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

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British commercial representations overseas	16 Apr. 1976
Customs notices of interest to exporters	7 May 1976
ECGD local offices	7 May 1976
Guide to Departments	19 Mar. 1976
Official Receivers' offices	This week
Programme of trade promotions	30 Apr. 1976
Release dates of economic statistics	23 Apr. 1976

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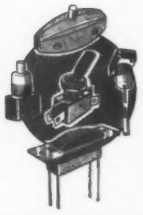

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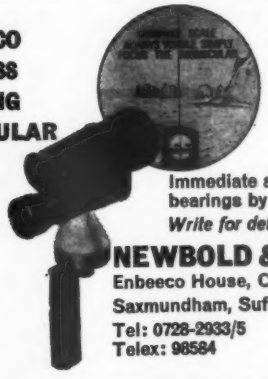

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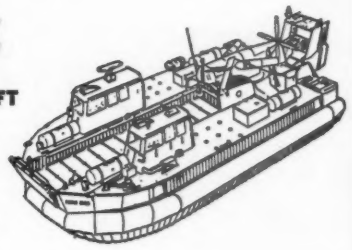

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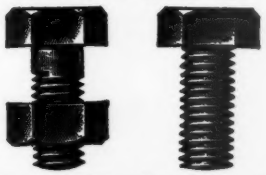

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